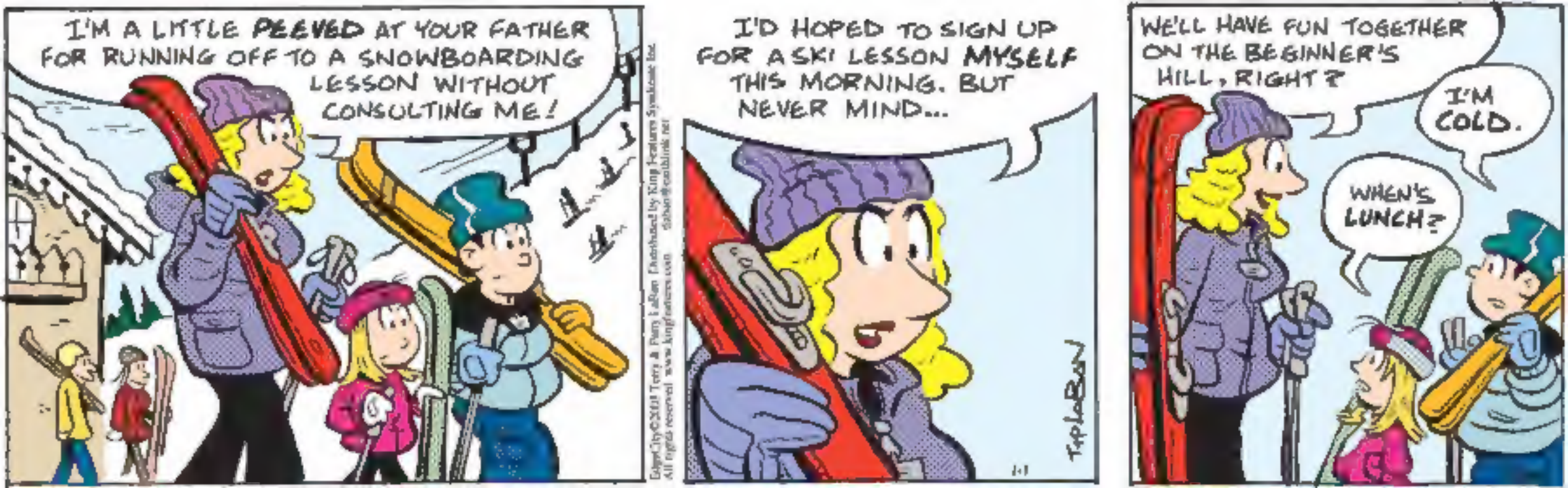
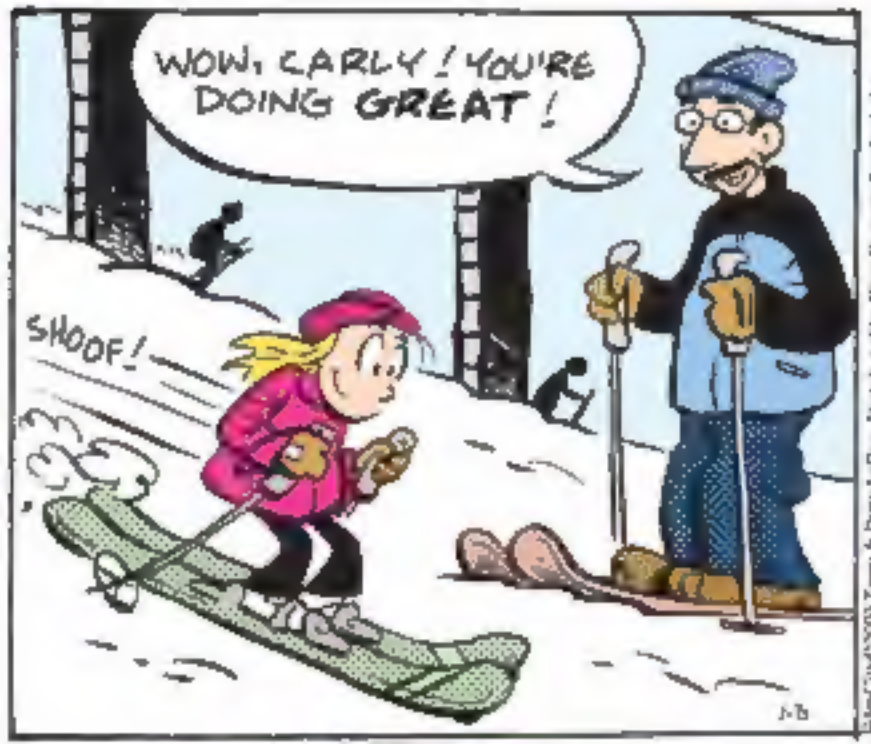

I'M A LITTLE PEEVED AT YOUR FATHER FOR RUNNING OFF TO A SNOWBOARDING LESSON WITHOUT CONSULTING ME!
I'D HOPED TO SIGN UP FOR A SKI LESSON MYSELF THIS MORNING. BUT NEVER MIND...
TRIPLEBUN
WE'LL HAVE FUN TOGETHER ON THE BEGINNER'S HILL, RIGHT?
I'M COLD.
WHEN'S LUNCH?

DID YOU ENJOY YOUR SNOWBOARDING LESSON, LEN?
OH, YEAH! IT WAS GREAT!
I JUST WISH YOU'D SAID SOMETHING BEFORE YOU DISAPPEARED AND LEFT ME WITH THE KIDS!
SORRY, HONEY-- I THOUGHT IT'D BE OK.
I'LL TAKE 'EM FOR A WHILE THIS AFTERNOON. JUST GIVE ME A HALF HOUR TO...
UH... ABBY?!
MOM SAID YOU'D TAKE US TO THE ARCADE!



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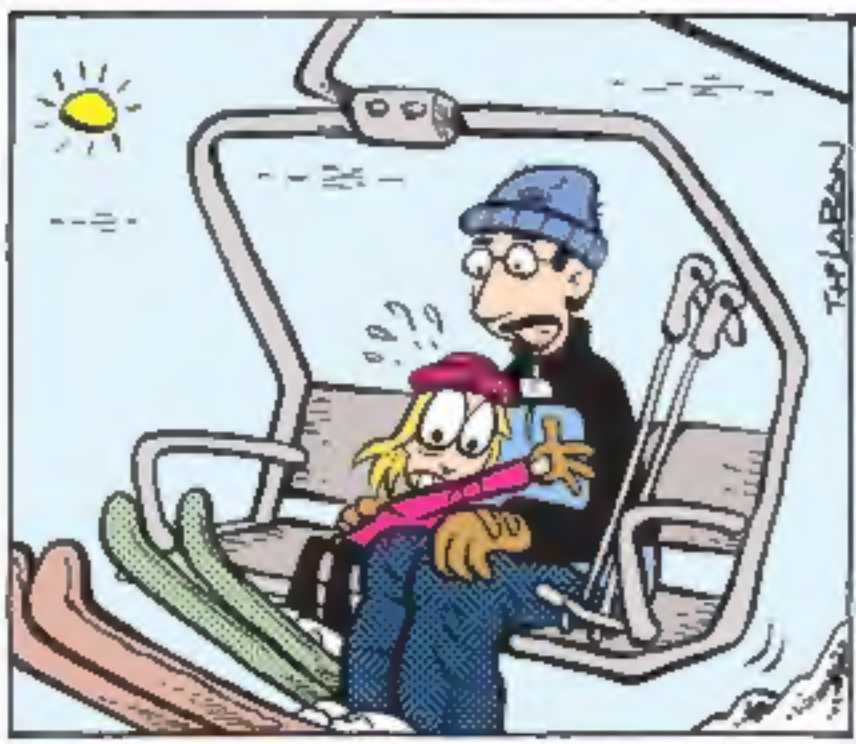

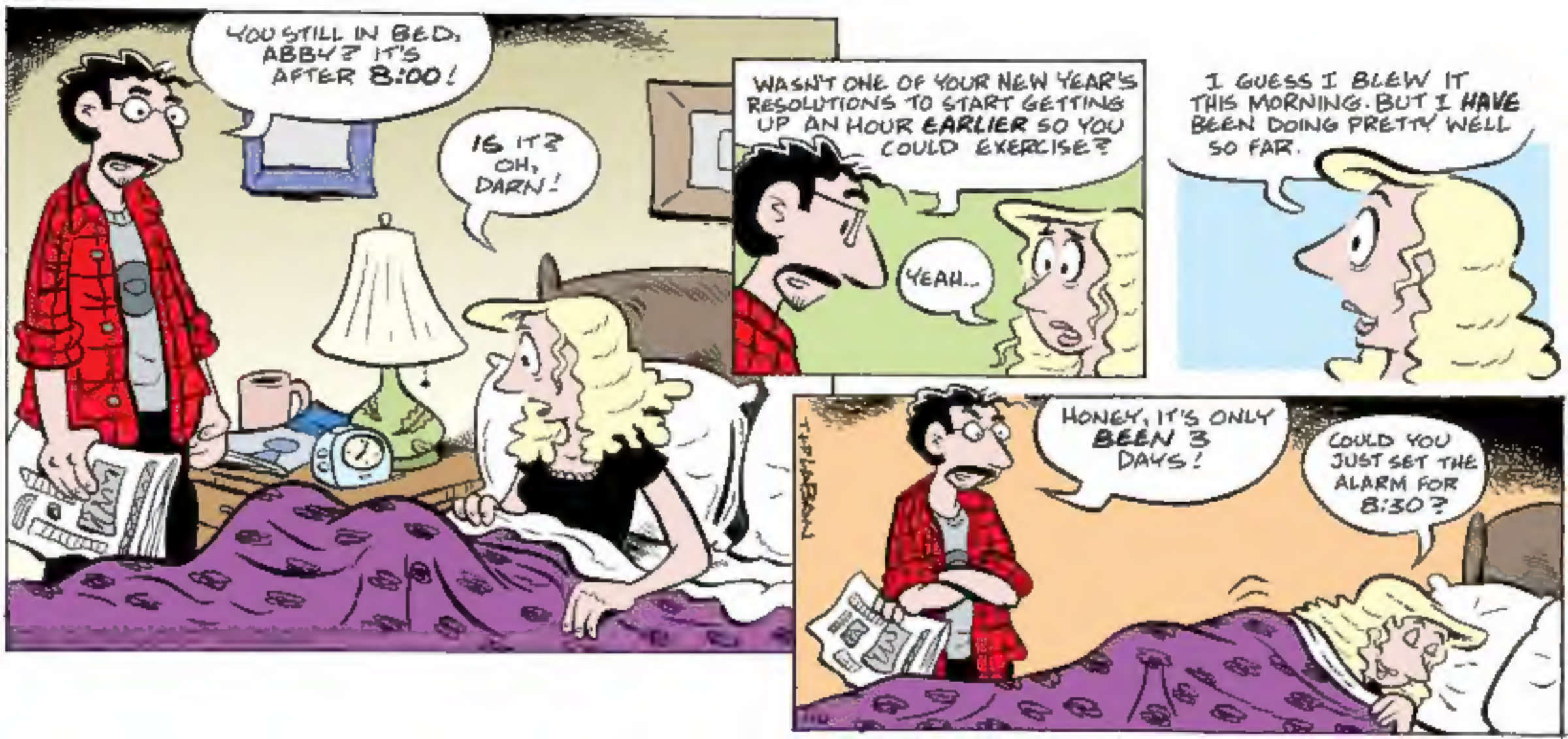
YOU STILL IN BED, ABBY? IT'S AFTER 8:00!
IS IT? OH, DARN!
WASN'T ONE OF YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS TO START GETTING UP AN HOUR EARLIER SO YOU COULD EXERCISE?
YEAH...
I GUESS I BLEW IT THIS MORNING. BUT I HAVE BEEN DOING PRETTY WELL SO FAR.
HONEY, IT'S ONLY BEEN 3 DAYS!
COULD YOU JUST SET THE ALARM FOR 8:30?
T.H.LARSEN

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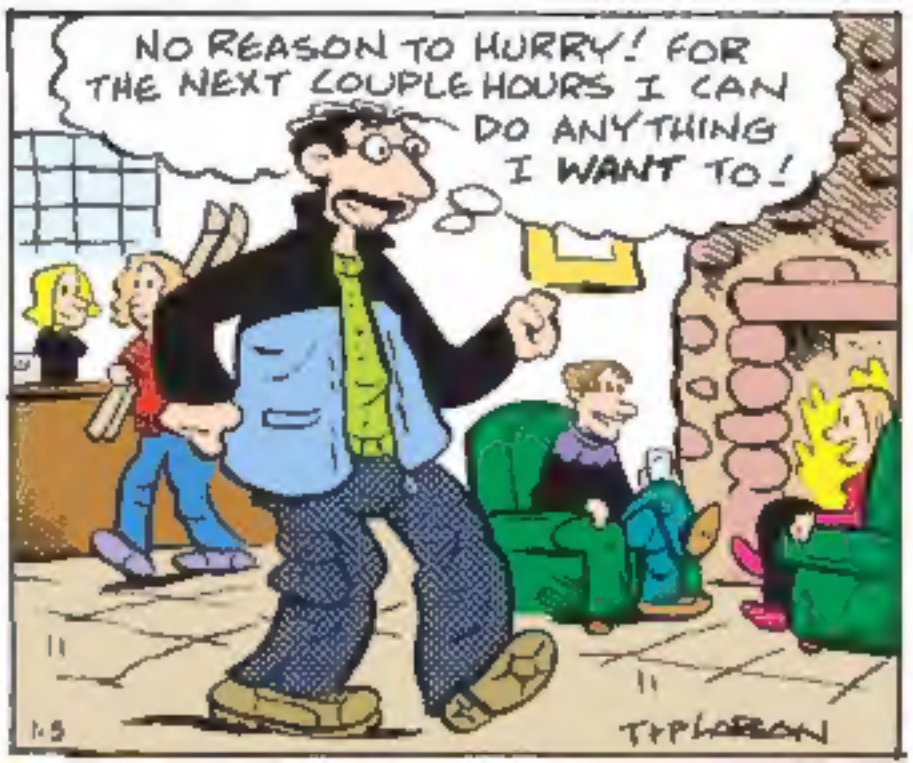

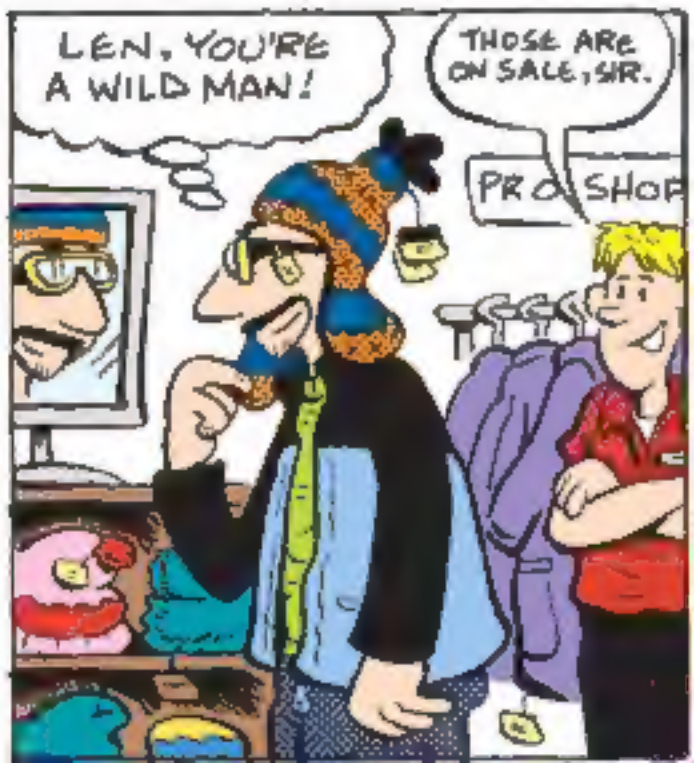

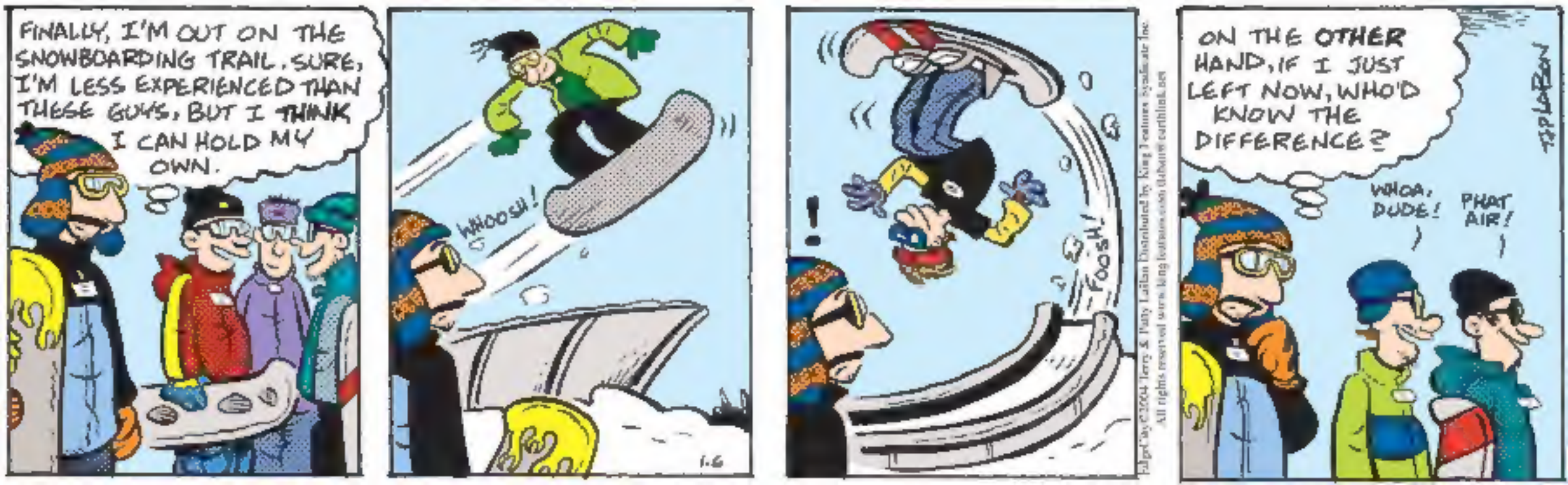

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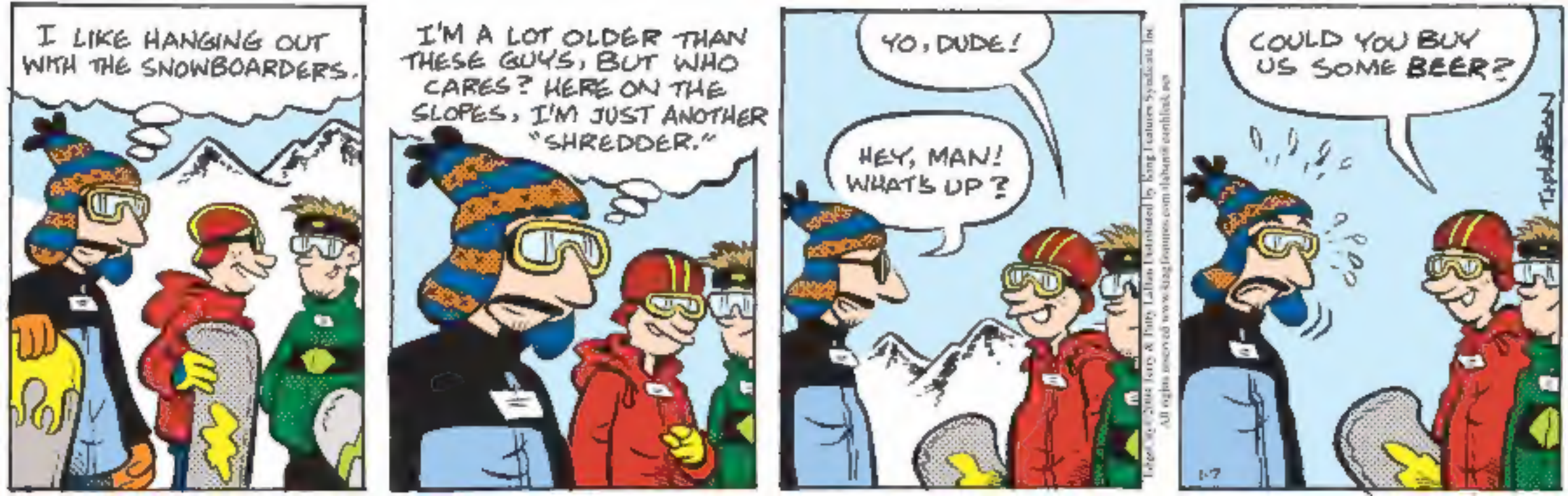
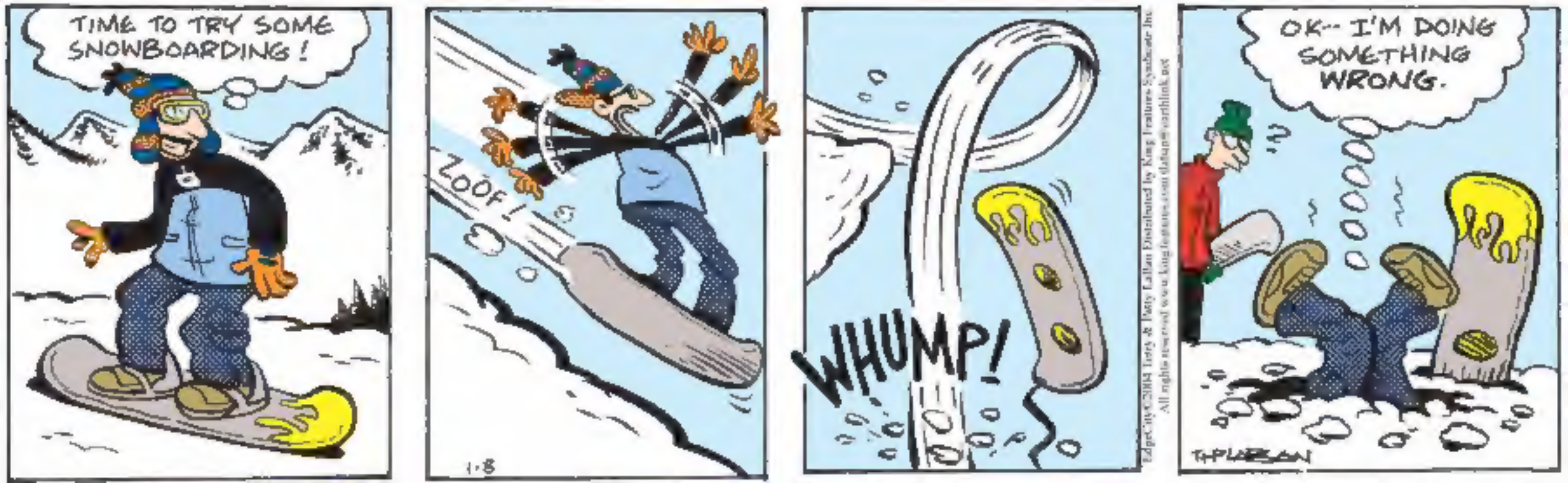

I LIKE HANGING OUT WITH THE SNOWBOARDERS.
I'M A LOT OLDER THAN THESE GUYS, BUT WHO CARES? HERE ON THE SLOPES, I'M JUST ANOTHER "SHREDDER."
YO, DUDE!
HEY, MAN! WHAT'S UP?
COULD YOU BUY US SOME BEER?


TIME TO TRY SOME SNOWBOARDING!
ZOOF!
WHUMP!
OK-- I'M DOING SOMETHING WRONG.
THPLABAN

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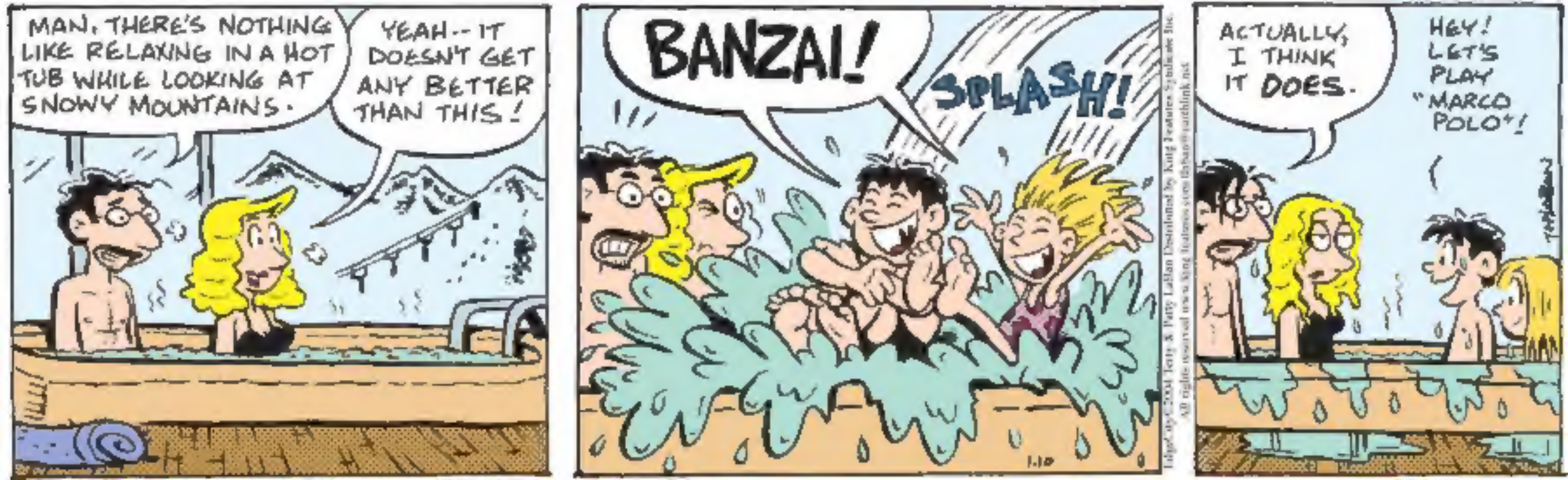
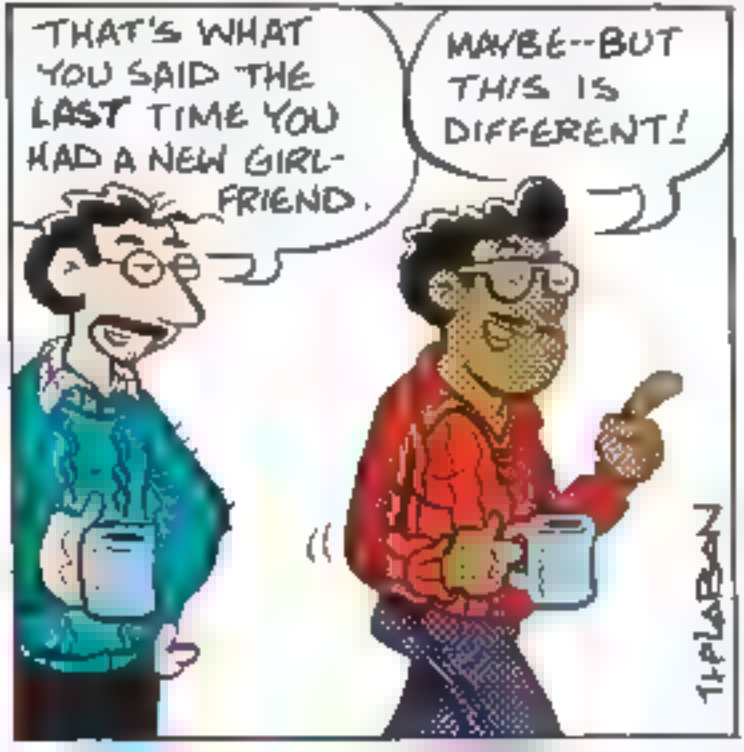
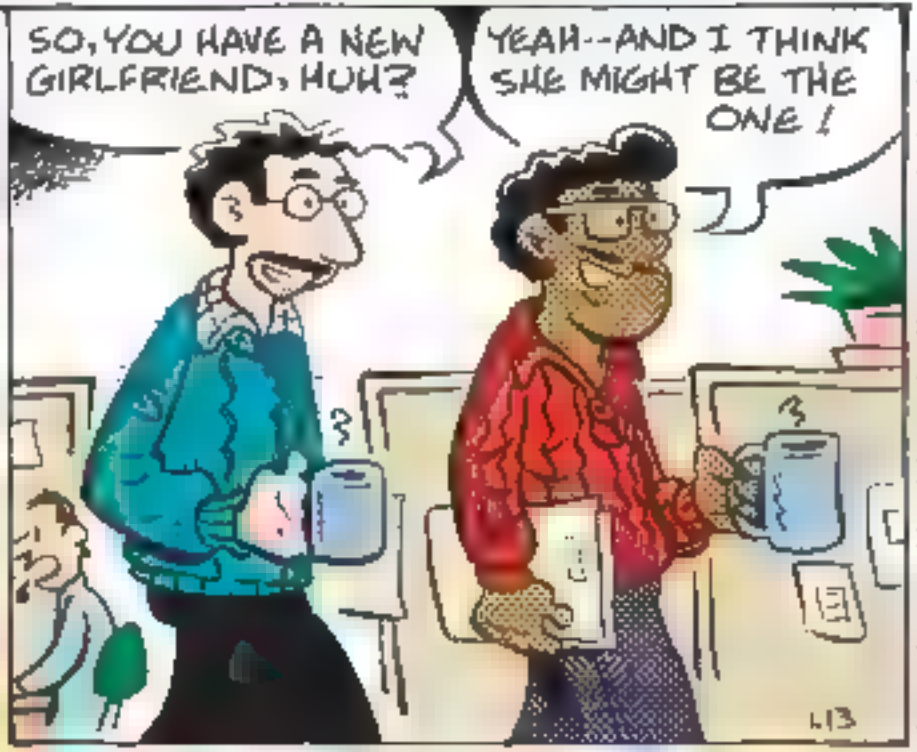

MAN, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE RELAXING IN A HOT TUB WHILE LOOKING AT SNOWY MOUNTAINS.
YEAH -- IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS!
BANZAI!
SPLASH!
ACTUALLY, I THINK IT DOES.
HEY! LET'S PLAY "MARCO POLO"!

LOOK AT ALL THE CUTE GIRLS CHECKING OUT US SNOWBOARDERS.
I WONDER IF ANY OF 'EM NOTICE ME?
I WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT, OF COURSE. BUT IT'D DEFINITELY BOOST THE OLD EGO!
HEY... THAT GIRL IS LOOKING RIGHT AT ME!
OMIGOSH! SHE'S WAVING!
HEH... HI!
OH, HI, AMBER! HOW Y'DOIN'?
HI, TONY!

YOU LOOK CHIPPER THIS MORNING, RAJIV.
IT'S MY NEW GIRLFRIEND, LEN! I THINK I'M REALLY IN LOVE!

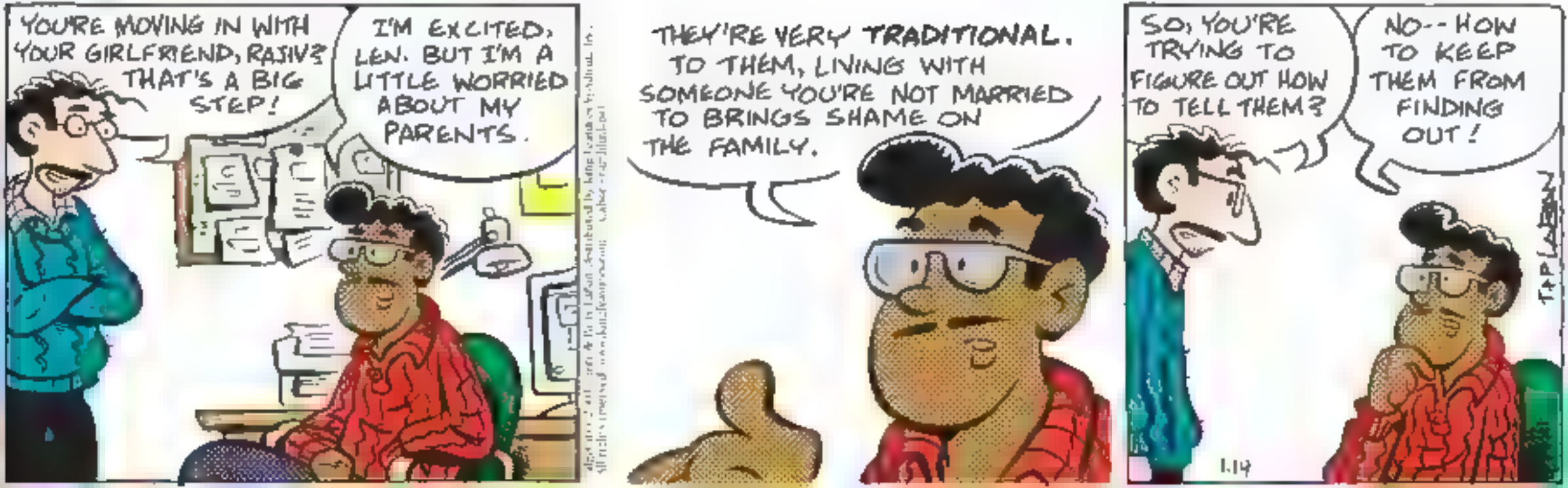
I'VE GONE OUT WITH A LOT OF WOMEN, BUT I'VE NEVER FELT THE WAY I FEEL WITH HER!

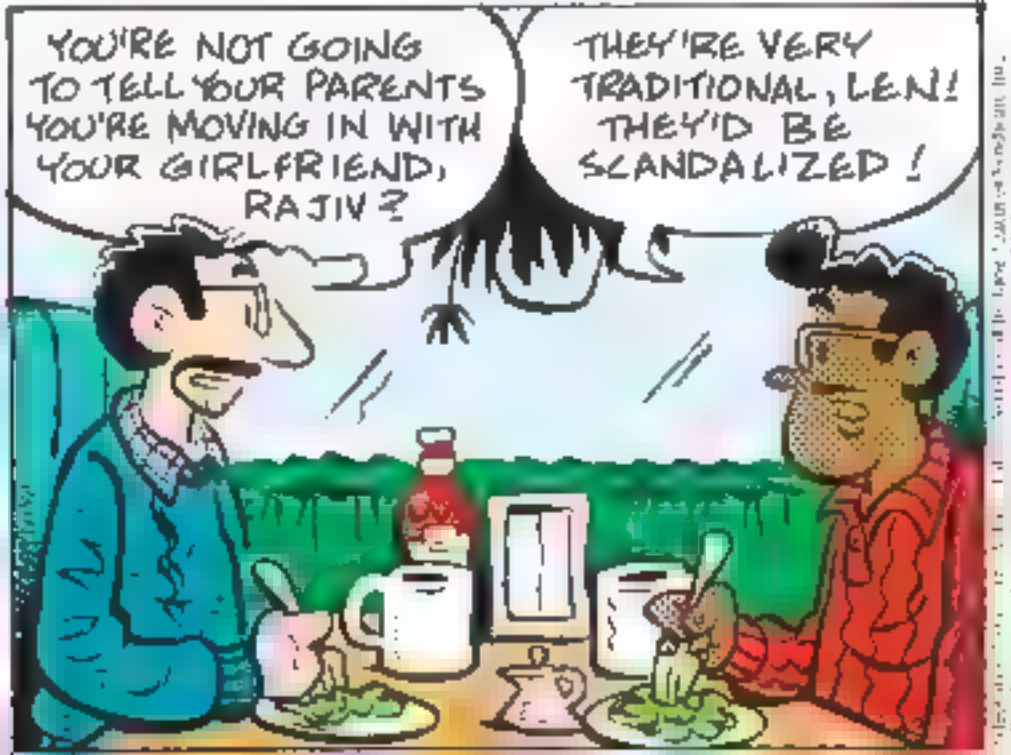

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID THE LAST TIME YOU HAD A NEW GIRL-FRIEND.
MAYBE--BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT!
T.PLABON


SO, YOU HAVE A NEW GIRLFRIEND, HUH?
YEAH--AND I THINK SHE MIGHT BE THE ONE!
LB

THAT'S GREAT! THOUGH I MUST SAY--YOU'VE NEVER BEEN BIG ON COMMITMENT.
THIS TIME IT'S DIFFERENT, LEN. I'VE TOLD HER I'M READY TO COMMIT FOR THE LONG TERM!

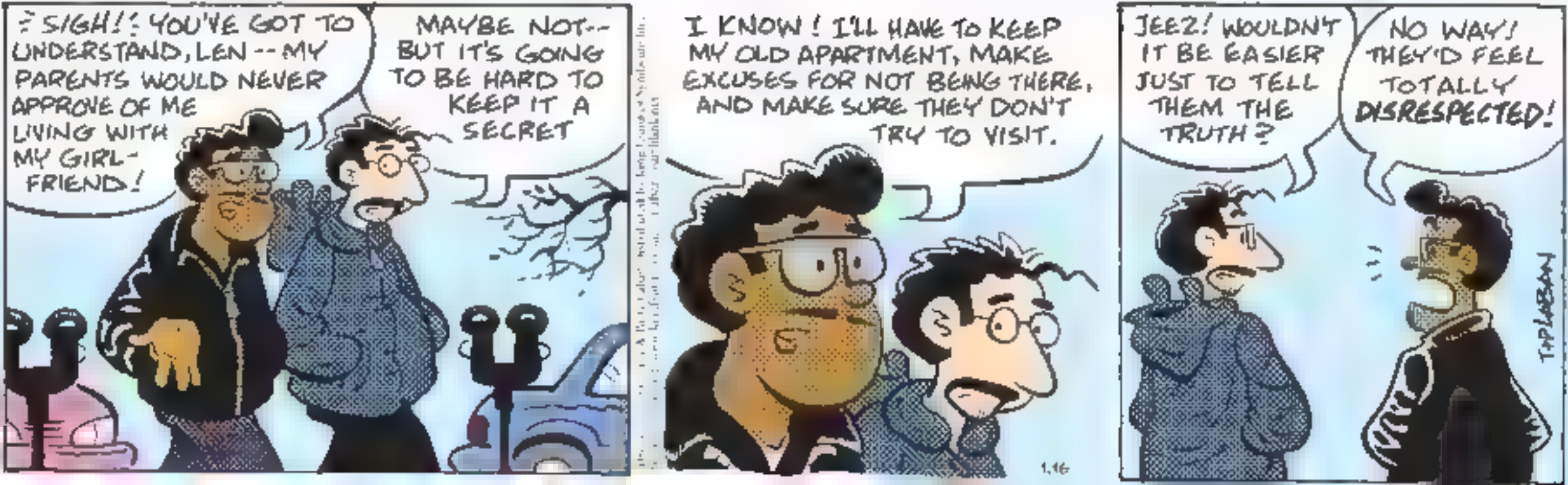
YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED?
NO, WE'RE MOVING IN TOGETHER.
TOM LUSZICKI

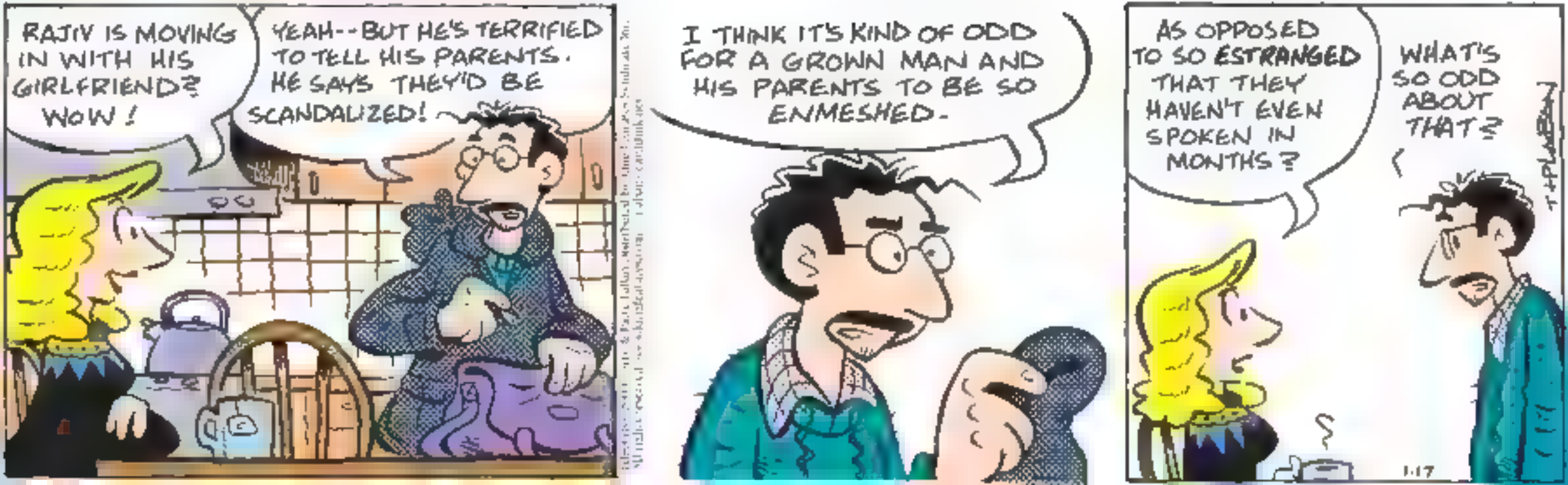

YOU'RE MOVING IN WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND, RAJIV? THAT'S A BIG STEP!
I'M EXCITED, LEN. BUT I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT MY PARENTS.
THEY'RE VERY TRADITIONAL. TO THEM, LIVING WITH SOMEONE YOU'RE NOT MARRIED TO BRINGS SHAME ON THE FAMILY.
SO, YOU'RE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO TELL THEM?
NO-- HOW TO KEEP THEM FROM FINDING OUT!
T&P LABAN
1.14

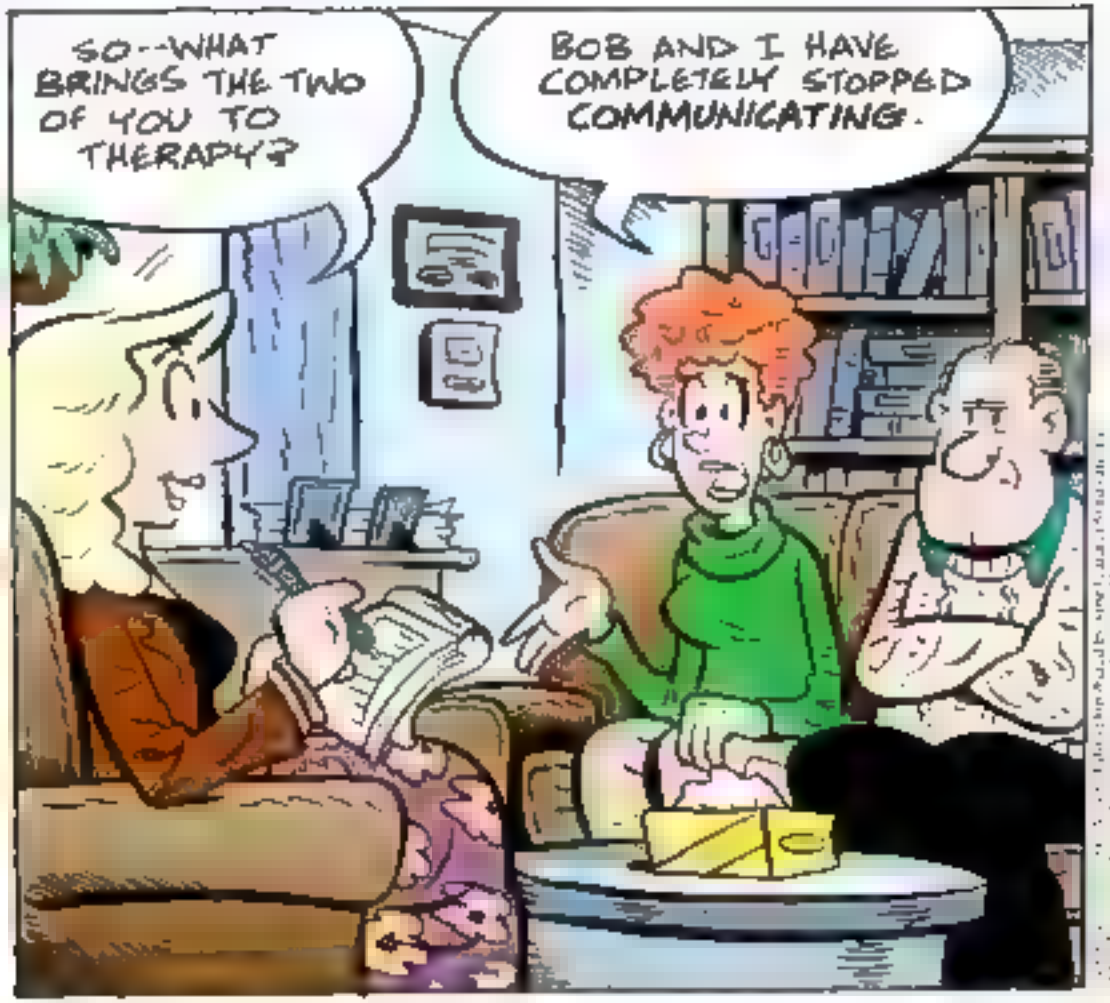

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL YOUR PARENTS YOU'RE MOVING IN WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND, RAJIV?
THEY'RE VERY TRADITIONAL, LEN! THEY'D BE SCANDALIZED!

SO, FOR THE TIME BEING, I'LL JUST KEEP MY OLD APARTMENT AND MAKE EXCUSES FOR NEVER BEING HOME.

YOU CAN'T KEEP IT A SECRET FOREVER, YOU KNOW!
I THINK IT'S A LITTLE EARLY TO PREDICT THAT!


SIGH! YOU'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND, LEN -- MY PARENTS WOULD NEVER APPROVE OF ME LIVING WITH MY GIRL-FRIEND!
MAYBE NOT-- BUT IT'S GOING TO BE HARD TO KEEP IT A SECRET
I KNOW! I'LL HAVE TO KEEP MY OLD APARTMENT, MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT BEING THERE, AND MAKE SURE THEY DON'T TRY TO VISIT.
JEEZ! WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER JUST TO TELL THEM THE TRUTH?
NO WAY! THEY'D FEEL TOTALLY DISRESPECTED!
THPLABAN

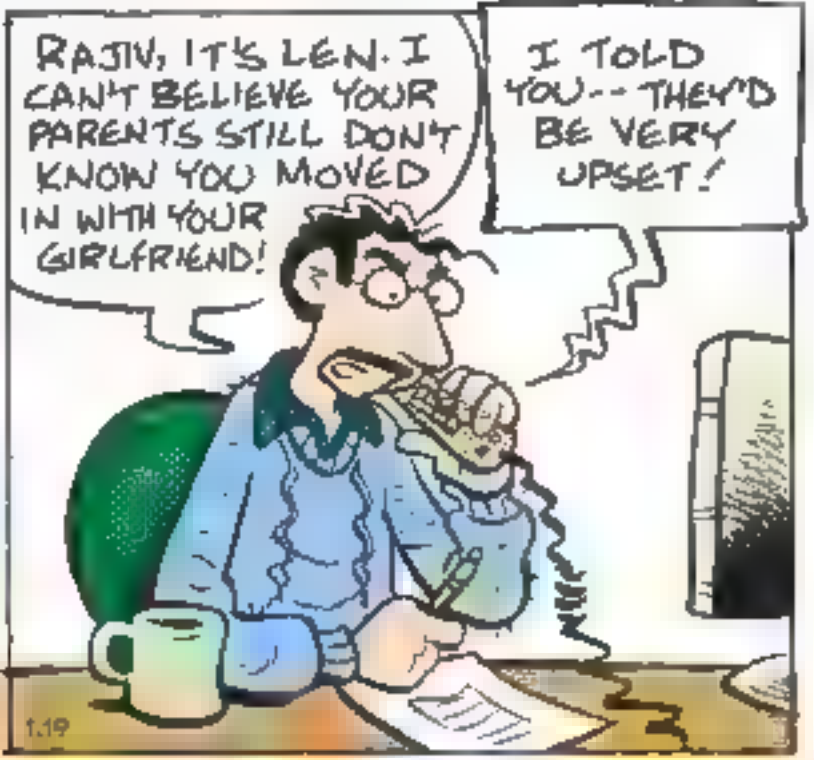

RAJIV IS MOVING IN WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND? WOW!
YEAH--BUT HE'S TERRIFIED TO TELL HIS PARENTS. HE SAYS THEY'D BE SCANDALIZED!
I THINK IT'S KIND OF ODD FOR A GROWN MAN AND HIS PARENTS TO BE SO ENMESHED.
AS OPPOSED TO SO ESTRANGED THAT THEY HAVEN'T EVEN SPOKEN IN MONTHS?
WHAT'S SO ODD ABOUT THAT?
T+PLAUTEN
1-17


SO--WHAT BRINGS THE TWO OF YOU TO THERAPY?
BOB AND I HAVE COMPLETELY STOPPED COMMUNICATING.

HE NEVER ASKS ME ABOUT MYSELF, OR TELLS ME ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HIM!

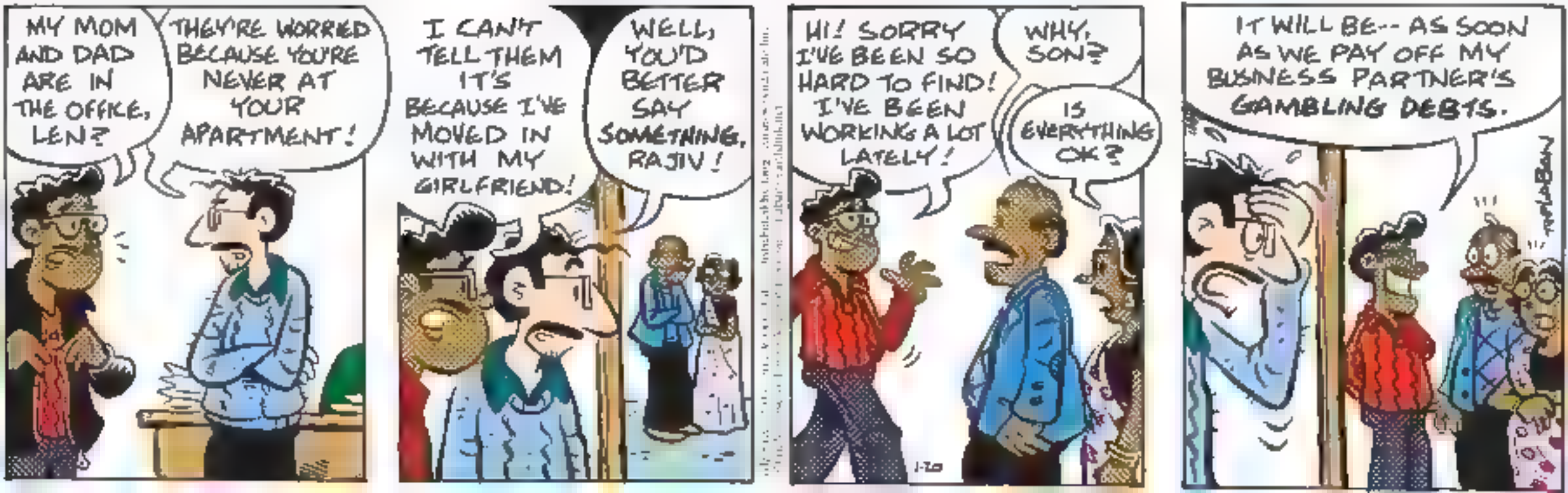
WHY WON'T MY HUSBAND TALK TO ME, DR. ARDIN? WHY?
CAN YOU ANSWER THAT, BOB?

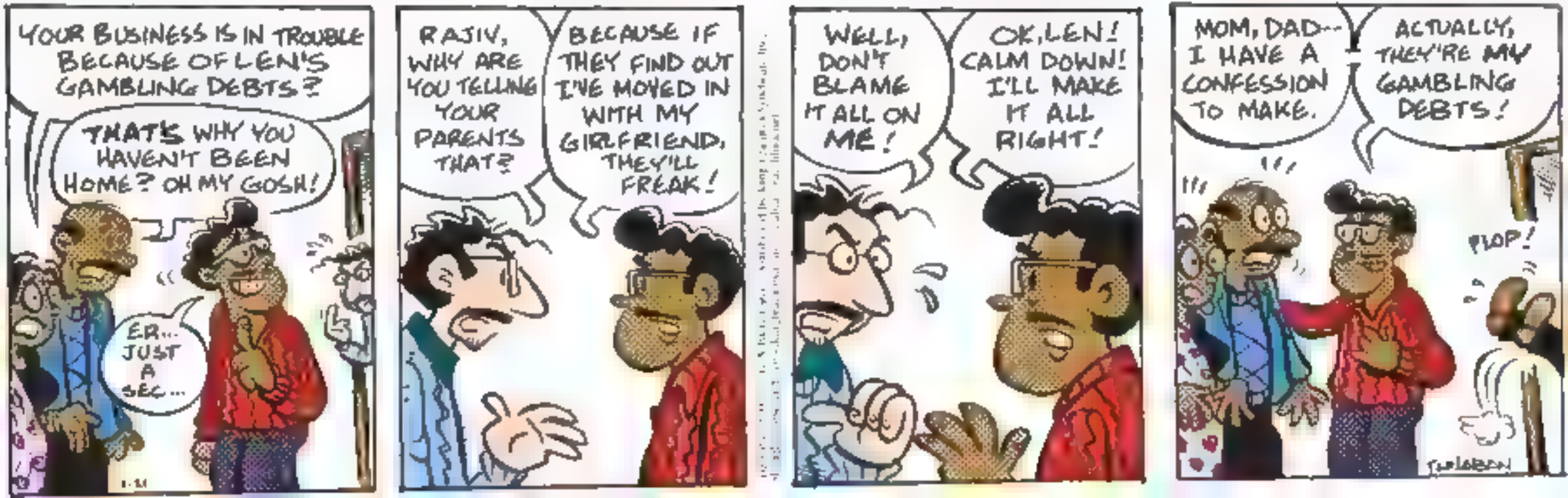
WELL, MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE...
THERE YOU GO AGAIN!!


RAJIV, IT'S LEN. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR PARENTS STILL DON'T KNOW YOU MOVED IN WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND!
I TOLD YOU-- THEY'D BE VERY UPSET!
1.19

WELL, I THINK IT'S TIME TO SAY SOMETHING!
LEN, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT-- SINCE WHEN DID THIS BECOME YOUR BUSINESS?

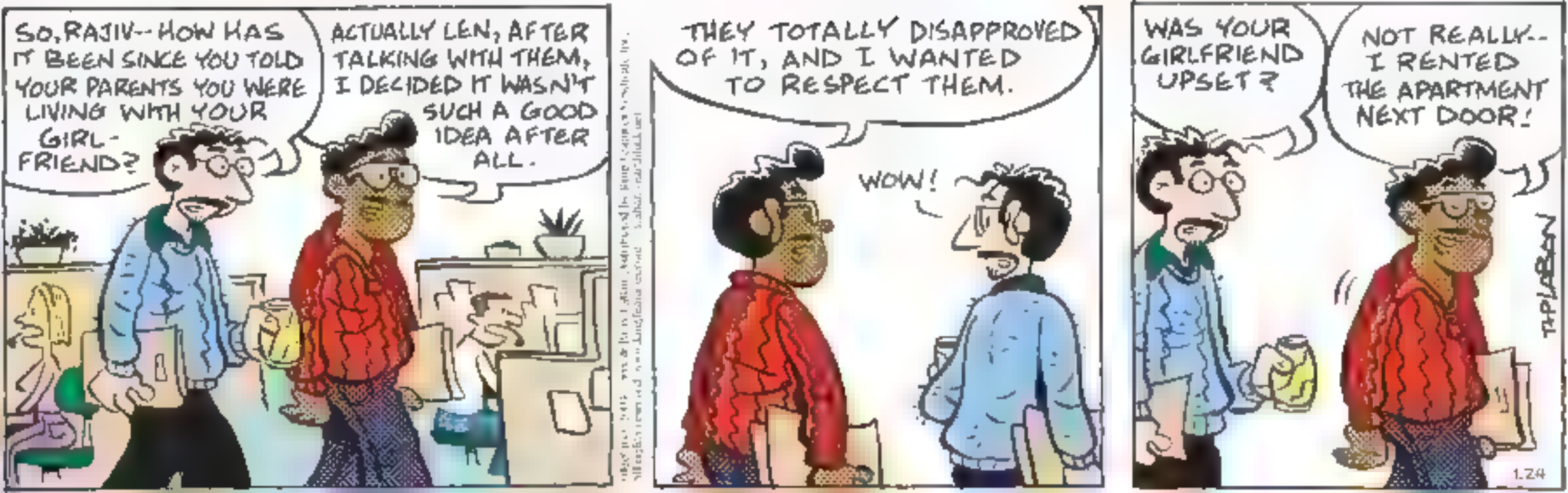
SINCE THEY TOLD ME THEY WEREN'T GOING TO LEAVE OUR OFFICE TILL THEY FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON!
I PARKED IN FRONT OF HIS BUILDING FOR 36 HOURS AND HE NEVER SHOWED!


MY MOM AND DAD ARE IN THE OFFICE, LEN?
THEY'RE WORRIED BECAUSE YOU'RE NEVER AT YOUR APARTMENT!
I CAN'T TELL THEM IT'S BECAUSE I'VE MOVED IN WITH MY GIRLFRIEND!
WELL, YOU'D BETTER SAY SOMETHING, RAJIV!
HI! SORRY I'VE BEEN SO HARD TO FIND! I'VE BEEN WORKING A LOT LATELY!
WHY, SON?
IS EVERYTHING OK?
IT WILL BE-- AS SOON AS WE PAY OFF MY BUSINESS PARTNER'S GAMBLING DEBTS.


YOUR BUSINESS IS IN TROUBLE BECAUSE OF LEN'S GAMBLING DEBTS?
THAT'S WHY YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HOME? OH MY GOSH!
ER... JUST A SEC...
RAJIV, WHY ARE YOU TELLING YOUR PARENTS THAT?
BECAUSE IF THEY FIND OUT I'VE MOVED IN WITH MY GIRLFRIEND, THEY'LL FREAK!
WELL, DON'T BLAME IT ALL ON ME!
OK, LEN! CALM DOWN! I'LL MAKE IT ALL RIGHT!
MOM, DAD-- I HAVE A CONFESSION TO MAKE.
ACTUALLY, THEY'RE MY GAMBLING DEBTS!
FLOP!

RAJIV, TELLING YOUR PARENTS YOU HAVENT BEEN HOME BECAUSE OUR BUSINESS IS FAILING WAS A TRULY BAD IDEA!
YOU'RE RIGHT, LEN. I GUESS I PANICKED.
THIS CAN'T BE WORSE THAN JUST TELLING THEM THE TRUTH!
YEAH-- SIGH!... IT'S TIME TO FACE THE MUSIC.
TUPLABON
MOM, DAD--I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU...
THE BUSINESS IS FINE. THE REASON I HAVEN'T BEEN AT MY APARTMENT IS THAT I'VE MOVED IN WITH MY GIRLFRIEND.
RAJIV, STOP THE BALONEY!
WOULD YOU PLEASE TELL US WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON?
1.22

SO IT'S TRUE, RAJIV-- YOU'RE LIVING WITH A GIRL YOU'RE NOT MARRIED TO?
YES, DAD-- I AM.
1.23
YOU KNOW THIS GOES COMPLETELY AGAINST OUR VALUES.
I DO. BUT THIS IS AMERICA, NOT INDIA.
WE UNDERSTAND THAT PEOPLE BEHAVE DIFFERENTLY HERE.
BUT THERE ARE STILL SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT.
SUCH AS?
FOR ONE THING, THIS WILL MAKE IT A LOT HARDER TO ARRANGE YOU A GOOD MATCH!

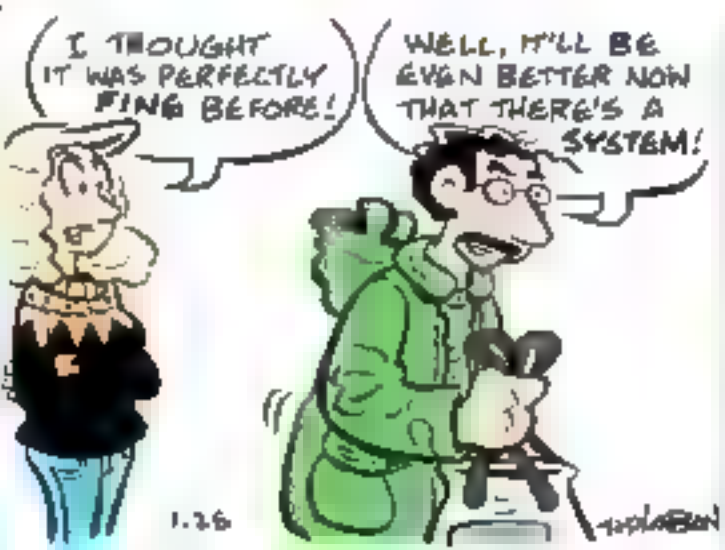

SO, RAJIV-- HOW HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU TOLD YOUR PARENTS YOU WERE LIVING WITH YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
ACTUALLY LEN, AFTER TALKING WITH THEM, I DECIDED IT WASN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA AFTER ALL.
THEY TOTALLY DISAPPROVED OF IT, AND I WANTED TO RESPECT THEM.
WOW!
WAS YOUR GIRLFRIEND UPSET?
NOT REALLY-- I RENTED THE APARTMENT NEXT DOOR!
THPLABON
1.24

ABBY, HAVE YOU SEEN THE TOTE BAG WITH MY GYM STUFF IN IT?
I PUT IT ON THE BACK PORCH.

OMIGOSH! THIS PLACE IS FILLED WITH TOTE BAGS!
WELL, WE USE ONE FOR ALMOST EVERY ACTIVITY.

WE AT LEAST OUGHT TO ORGANIZE THEM A LITTLE...
HERE--I'M PUTTING OUR STUFF IN THE WHITE BAGS AND THE KIDS' STUFF IN THE COLORED ONES...

YOUR STUFF IS IN BAGS FROM FOOD STORES, MINES IN BAGS THAT HAVE PRODUCTS. COLIN'S IS IN BAGS FROM PLACES, AND CARLY HAS BAGS FROM EVENTS.
FARM FESTIVAL

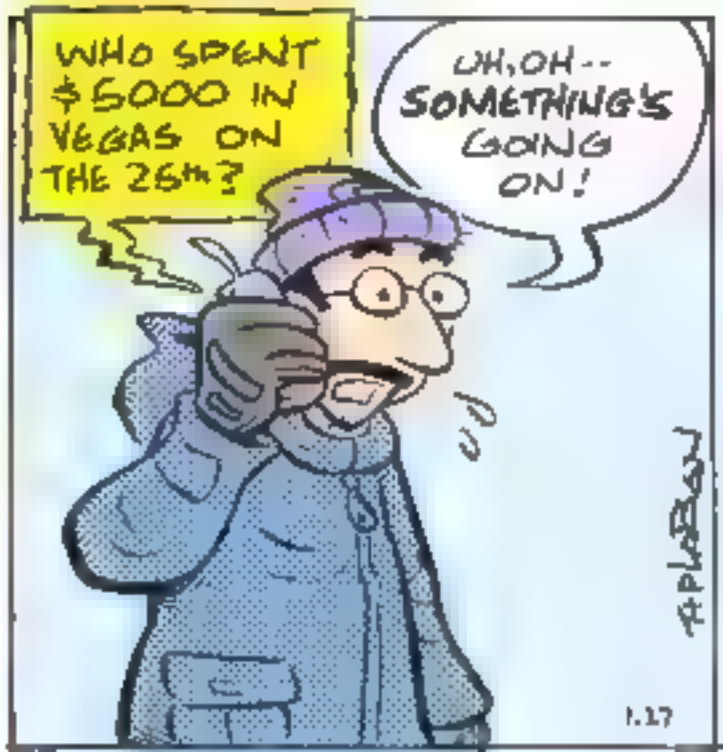

I THOUGHT IT WAS PERFECTLY FINE BEFORE!
WELL, IT'LL BE EVEN BETTER NOW THAT THERE'S A SYSTEM!

DARN!
LEN, YOU ALMOST READY?

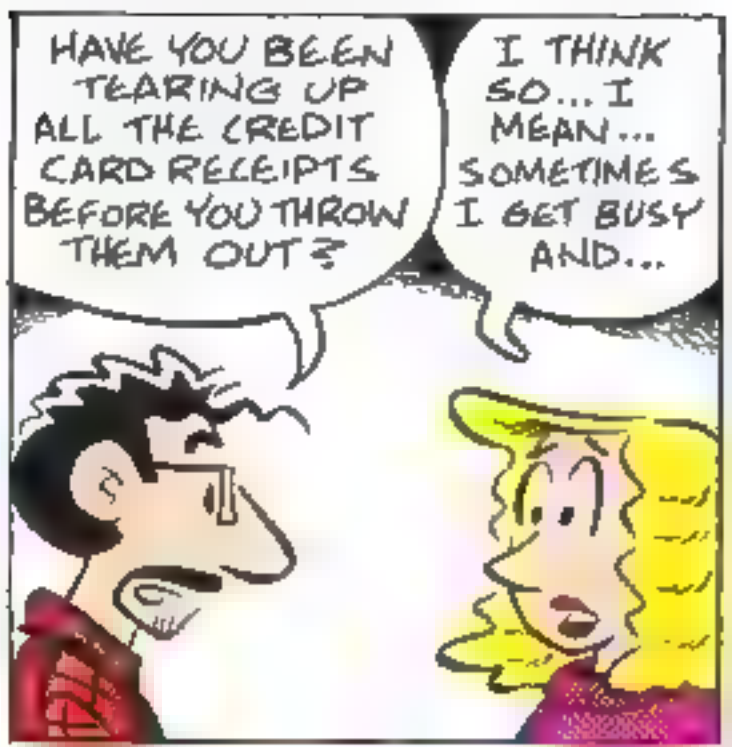
THAT'LL BE $41.24.
OK.
SORRY, SIR, BUT YOUR CREDIT CARD'S BEEN DENIED. APPARENTLY YOU'RE PAST YOUR LIMIT.
WHAT?!
1-26
OUR LIMIT'S $25,000.00!
FUNNY HOW IT CREEPS UP ON YOU, HUH?

ABBY, IT'S LEN--I JUST TRIED TO BUY 40 BUCKS' WORTH OF STUFF AT HOME WAREHOUSE, AND THEY TOLD ME OUR CREDIT CARD WAS MAXED OUT!
HOME WAREH

WE JUST GOT THIS MONTH'S STATEMENT. LET ME LOOK--

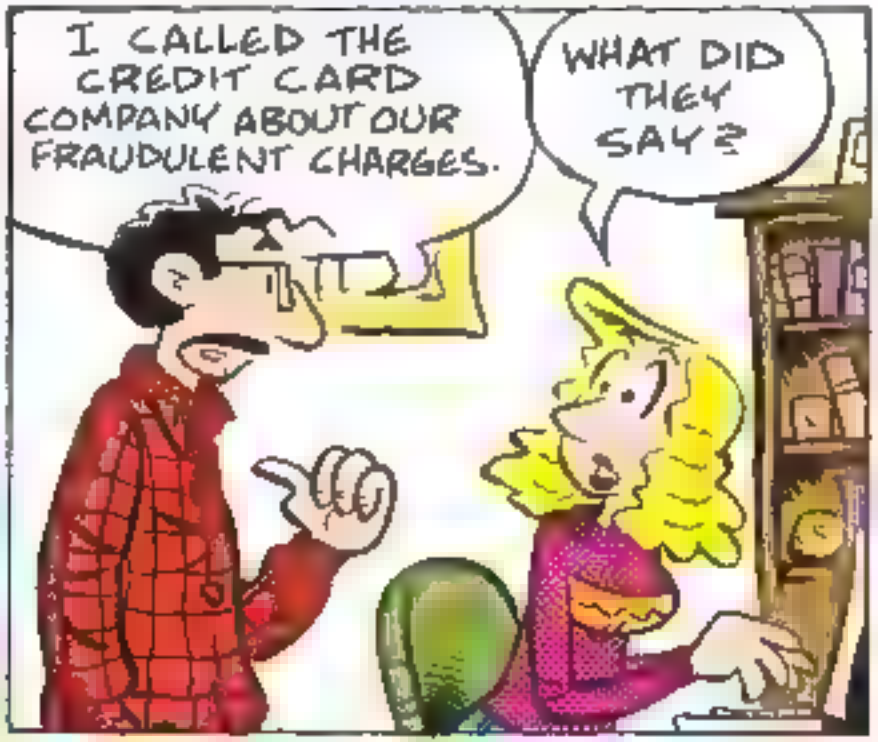

WHO SPENT $5000 IN VEGAS ON THE 26TH?
UH, OH-- SOMETHING'S GOING ON!
APLABAN
1.27

$5000 AT HOTELS IN VEGAS...$3000 WORTH OF JEWELRY IN PROVO...NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, ABBY--SOMEONE'S STOLEN OUR CREDIT CARD NUMBER!
OMIGOSH! HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?

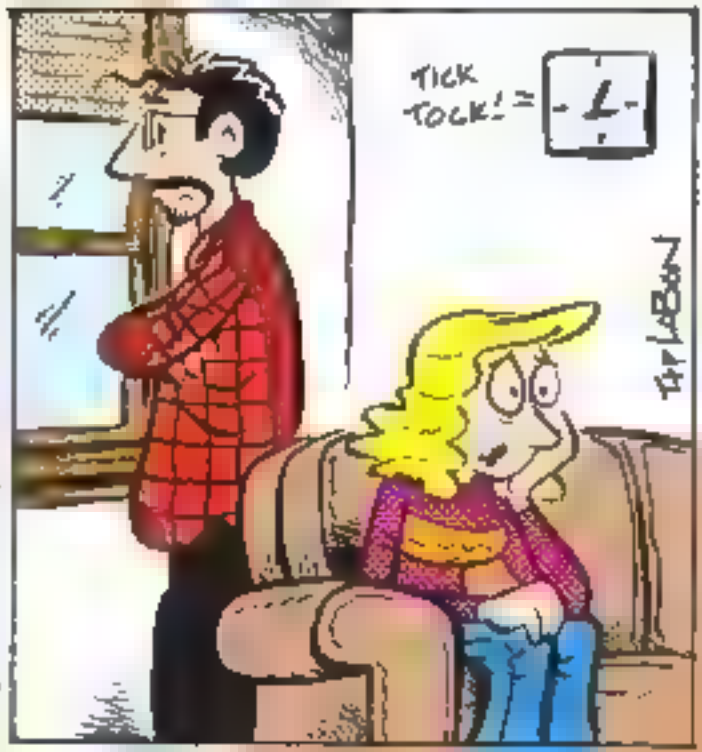

HAVE YOU BEEN TEARING UP ALL THE CREDIT CARD RECEIPTS BEFORE YOU THROW THEM OUT?
I THINK SO... I MEAN... SOMETIMES I GET BUSY AND...

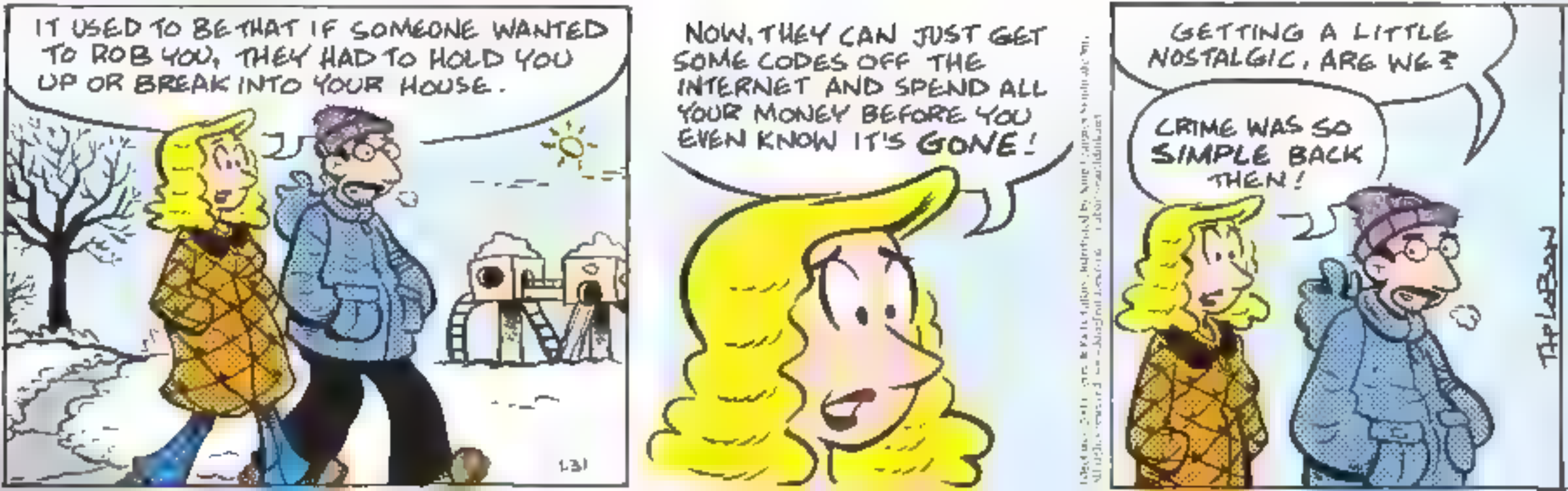
ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT THIS IS MY FAULT?!
HEY, HEY! DID I SAY THAT?
TOP LARSON
1-28

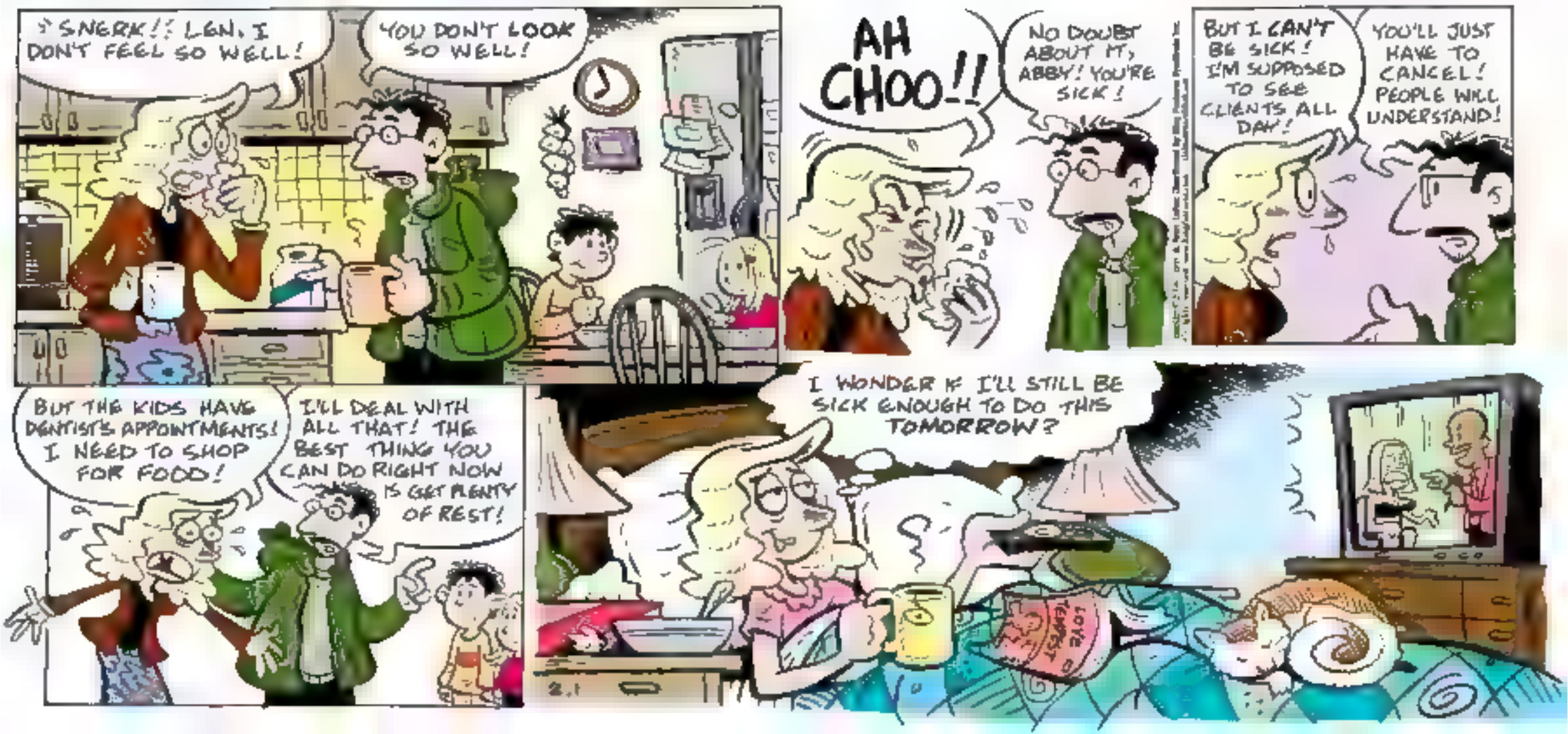
HELLO, MEISTERCARD FRAUD HOTLINE? SOMEONE'S BEEN FRAUDULENTLY USING MY CREDIT CARD NUMBER!
I'M SORRY, SIR. IT'S HAPPENING A LOT THESE DAYS.
IN RESPONSE, WE'VE HAD TO TIGHTEN OUR SECURITY. I'LL NEED SOME ADDITIONAL IDENTIFICATION BEFORE I CAN ACCESS YOUR ACCOUNT.
I UNDER-STAND.
CAN YOU FAX US COPIES OF YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE, SOCIAL SECURITY CARD, A SAMPLE THUMBPRINT, AND A NOTARIZED LETTER FROM YOUR MOM?
1-29

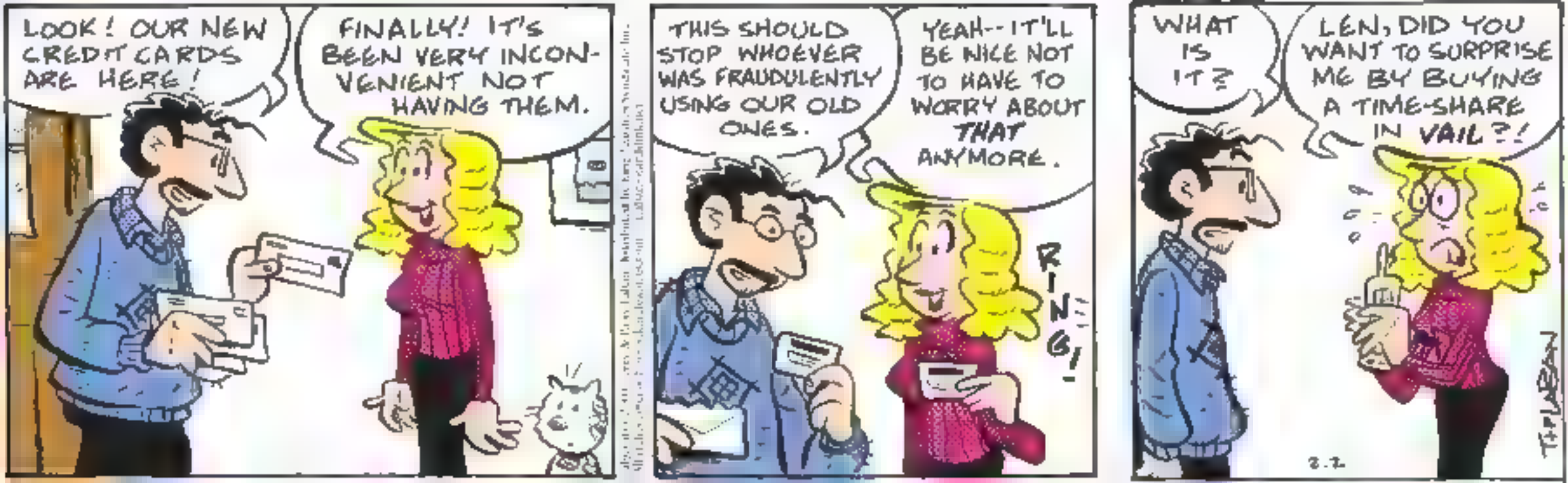

I CALLED THE CREDIT CARD COMPANY ABOUT OUR FRAUDULENT CHARGES.
WHAT DID THEY SAY?

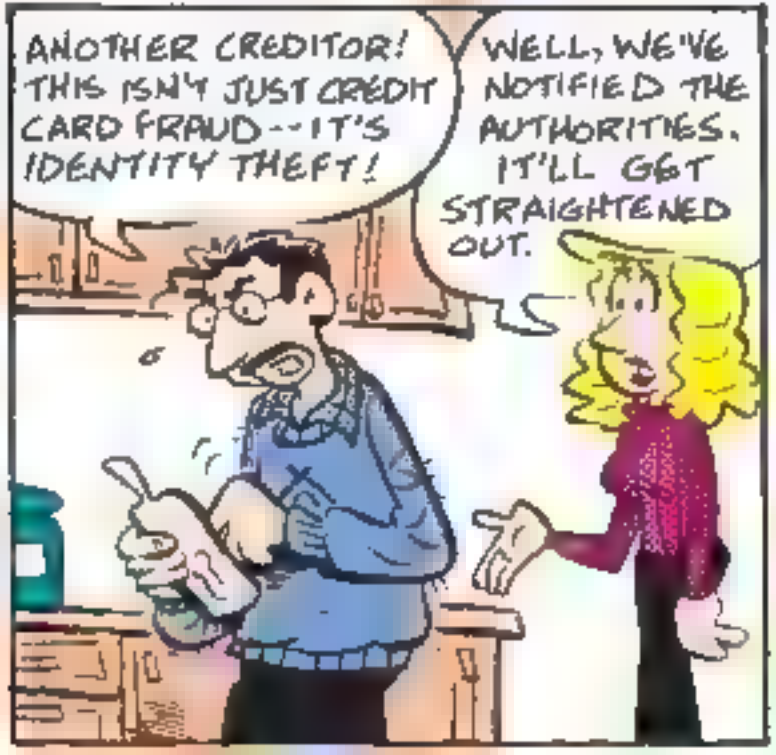
THEY'RE CANCELLING OUR OLD CARDS AND SENDING US NEW ONES. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MANAGE WITHOUT CREDIT CARDS UNTIL THEY ARRIVE.
1-30

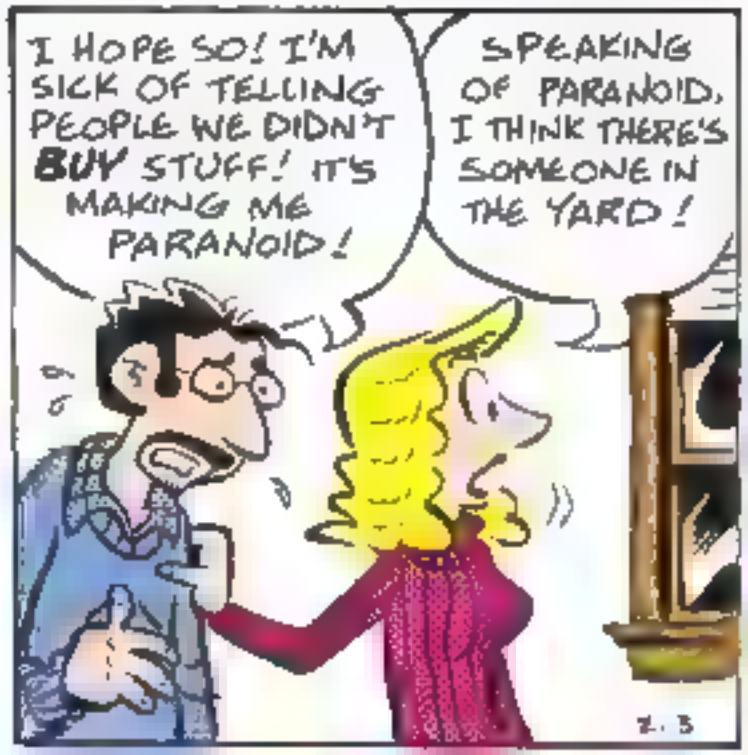

TICK TOCK! =
-1-
BY LABAN

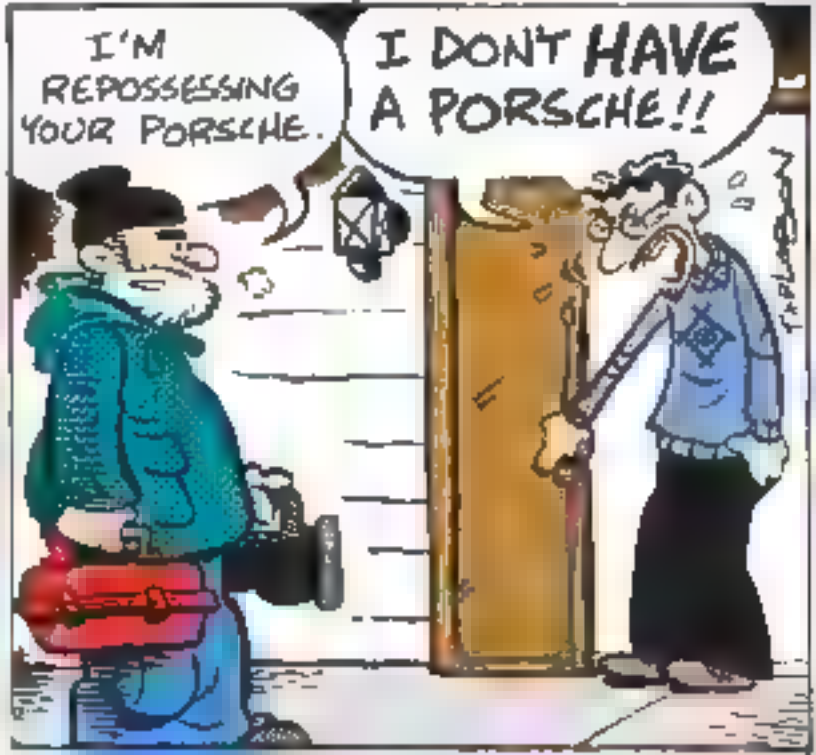

IT USED TO BE THAT IF SOMEONE WANTED TO ROB YOU, THEY HAD TO HOLD YOU UP OR BREAK INTO YOUR HOUSE.
NOW, THEY CAN JUST GET SOME CODES OFF THE INTERNET AND SPEND ALL YOUR MONEY BEFORE YOU EVEN KNOW IT'S GONE!
GETTING A LITTLE NOSTALGIC, ARE WE?
CRIME WAS SO SIMPLE BACK THEN!
THE LABAN

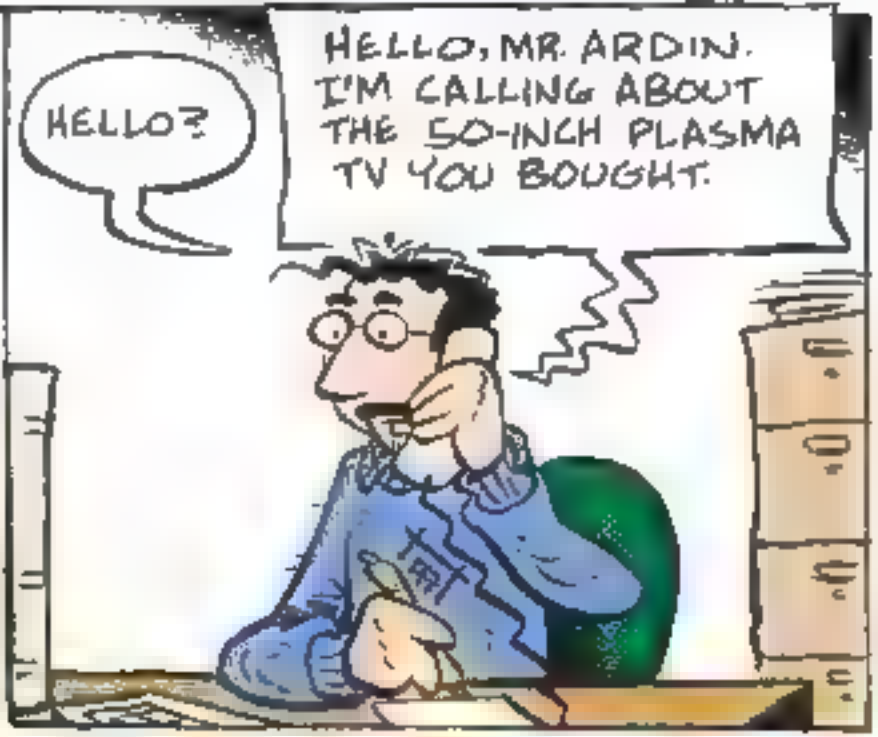

SNERK!! LEN, I DON'T FEEL SO WELL!
YOU DON'T LOOK SO WELL!
AH CHOO!!
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, ABBY! YOU'RE SICK!
BUT I CAN'T BE SICK! I'M SUPPOSED TO SEE CLIENTS ALL DAY!
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO CANCEL! PEOPLE WILL UNDERSTAND!
BUT THE KIDS HAVE DENTIST'S APPOINTMENTS! I NEED TO SHOP FOR FOOD!
I'LL DEAL WITH ALL THAT! THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW IS GET PLENTY OF REST!
I WONDER IF I'LL STILL BE SICK ENOUGH TO DO THIS TOMORROW?


LOOK! OUR NEW CREDIT CARDS ARE HERE!
FINALLY! IT'S BEEN VERY INCONVENIENT NOT HAVING THEM.
THIS SHOULD STOP WHOEVER WAS FRAUDULENTLY USING OUR OLD ONES.
YEAH--IT'LL BE NICE NOT TO HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ANYMORE.
RING!
WHAT IS IT?
LEN, DID YOU WANT TO SURPRISE ME BY BUYING A TIME-SHARE IN VAIL?!
TOLLIVER


ANOTHER CREDITOR! THIS ISN'T JUST CREDIT CARD FRAUD--IT'S IDENTITY THEFT!
WELL, WE'VE NOTIFIED THE AUTHORITIES. IT'LL GET STRAIGHTENED OUT.

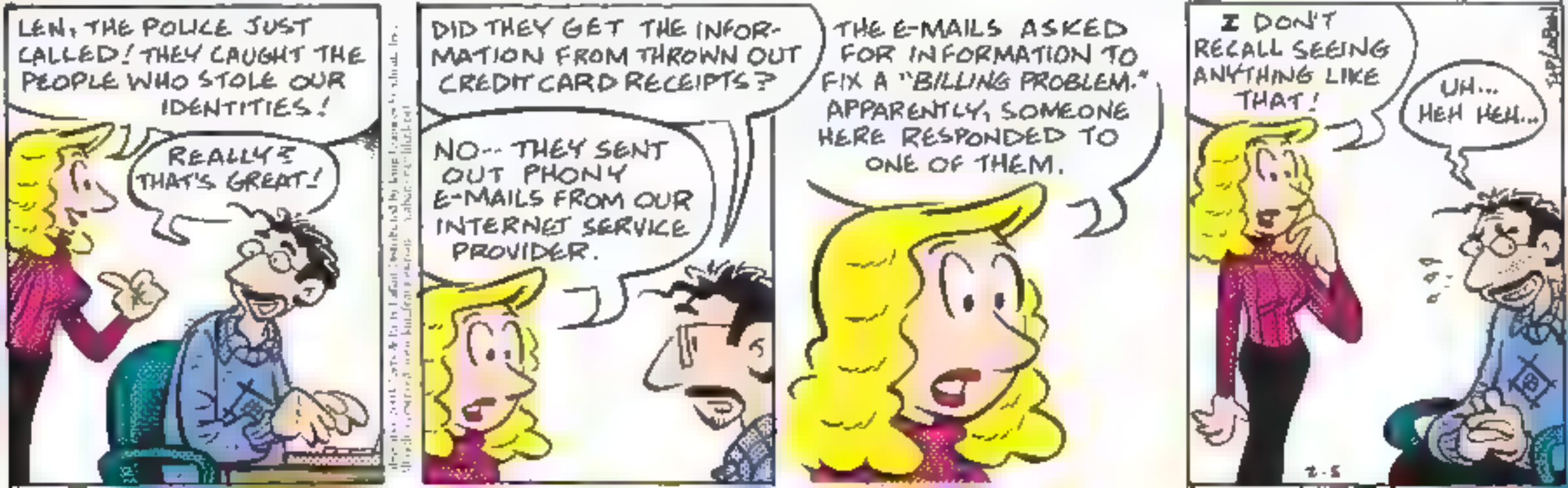

I HOPE SO! I'M SICK OF TELLING PEOPLE WE DIDN'T BUY STUFF! IT'S MAKING ME PARANOID!
SPEAKING OF PARANOID, I THINK THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE YARD!

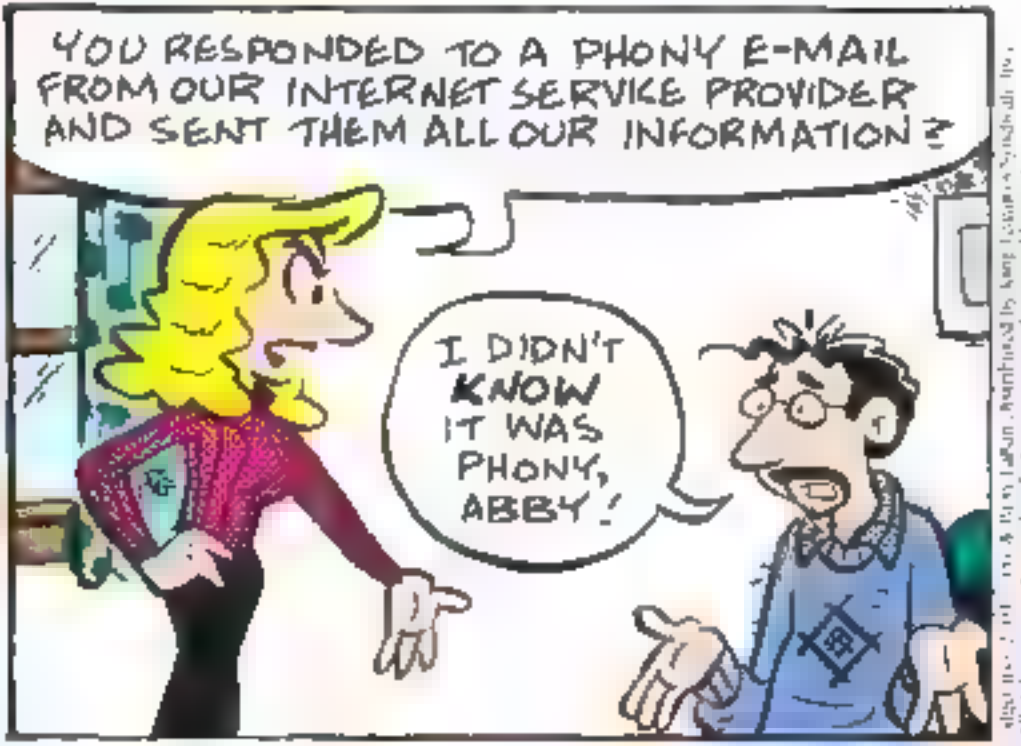

I'M REPOSSESSING YOUR PORSCHE.
I DON'T HAVE A PORSCHE!!

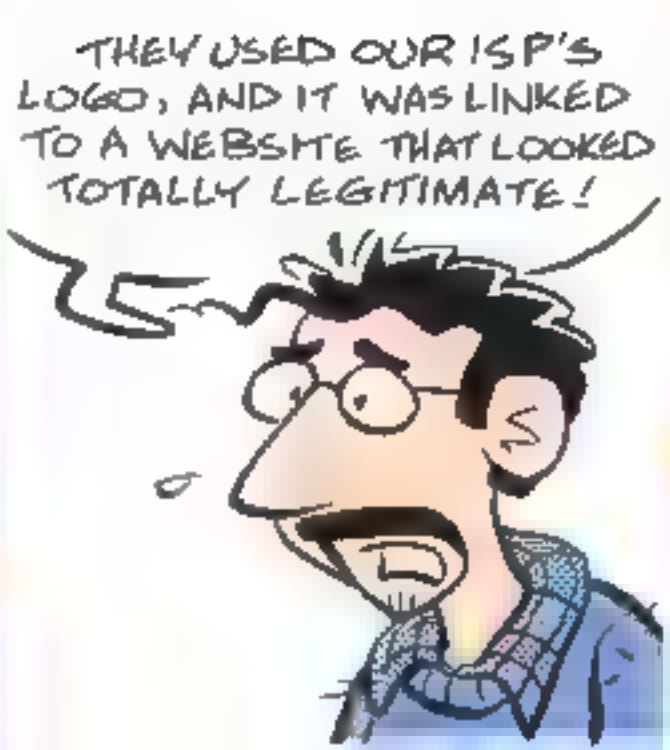

HELLO?
HELLO, MR. ARDIN. I'M CALLING ABOUT THE 50-INCH PLASMA TV YOU BOUGHT.

LOOK, I NEVER PURCHASED A PLASMA TV! I'M THE VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT! I'VE FILED REPORTS WITH THE POLICE AND FCC...I'M NOT LIABLE, UNDERSTAND?
SURE, MR. ARDIN...

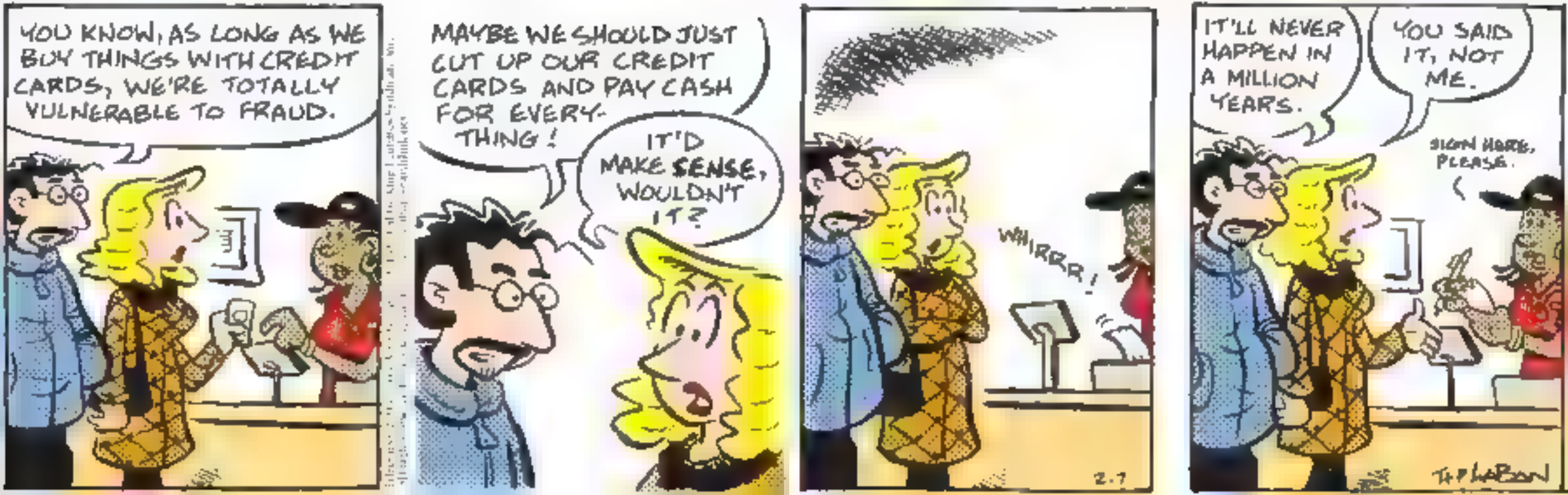
... THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY!
2-4

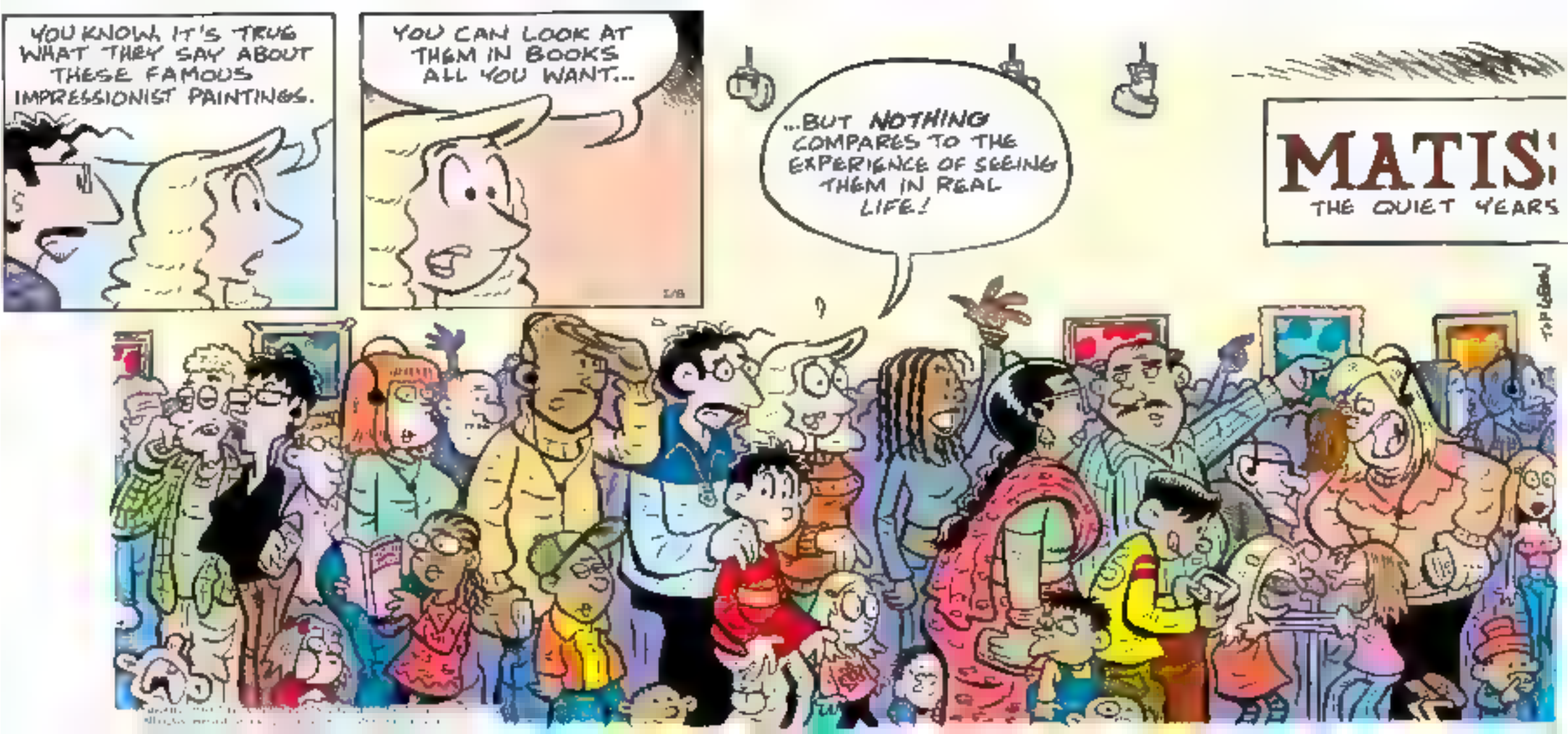

LEN, THE POLICE JUST CALLED! THEY CAUGHT THE PEOPLE WHO STOLE OUR IDENTITIES!
REALLY? THAT'S GREAT!
DID THEY GET THE INFORMATION FROM THROWN OUT CREDIT CARD RECEIPTS?
NO-- THEY SENT OUT PHONY E-MAILS FROM OUR INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER.
THE E-MAILS ASKED FOR INFORMATION TO FIX A "BILLING PROBLEM." APPARENTLY, SOMEONE HERE RESPONDED TO ONE OF THEM.
I DON'T RECALL SEEING ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
UH... HEH HEH...

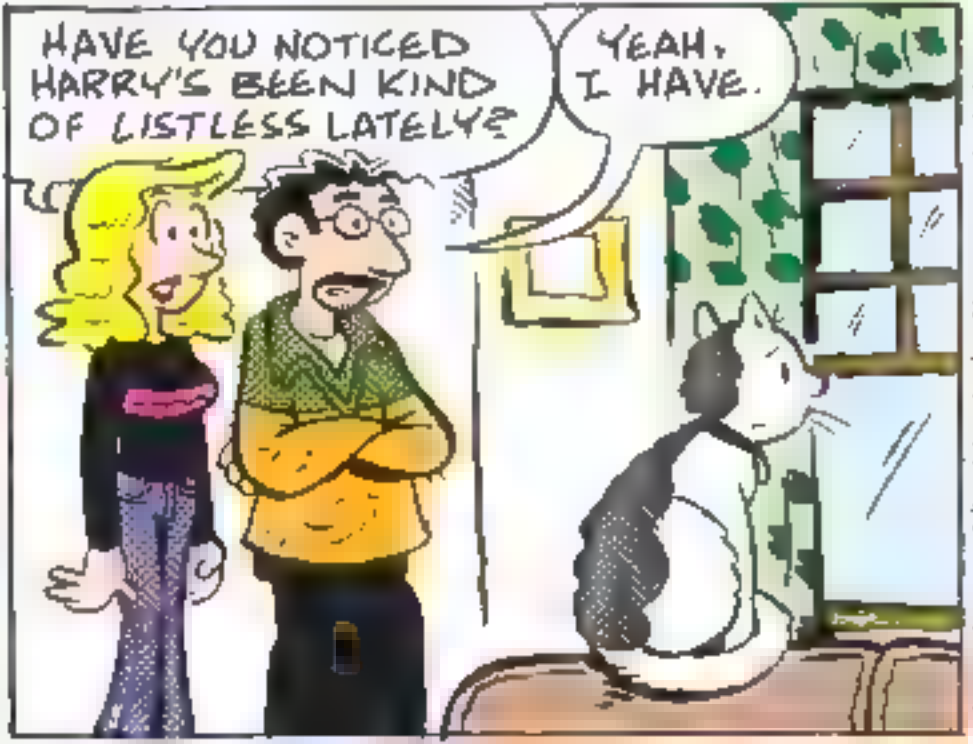

YOU RESPONDED TO A PHONY E-MAIL FROM OUR INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER AND SENT THEM ALL OUR INFORMATION?
I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS PHONY, ABBY!

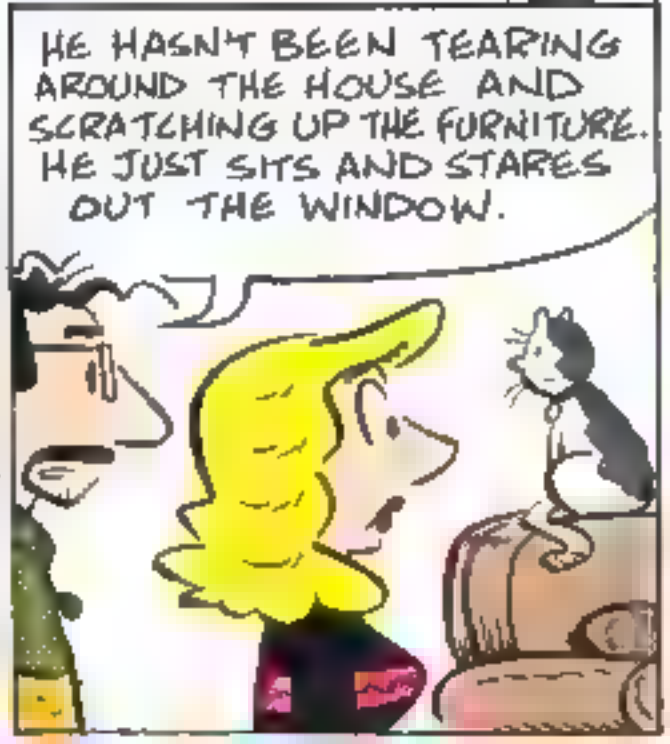

THEY USED OUR ISP'S LOGO, AND IT WAS LINKED TO A WEBSITE THAT LOOKED TOTALLY LEGITIMATE!

THOUGH I DID THINK IT WAS ODD THAT THEY NEEDED OUR LOCKER COMBINATIONS, PIN NUMBERS AND SHOE SIZES!
BUT NOT ODD ENOUGH TO KEEP FROM PRESSING THE "SUBMIT" BUTTON!
T. PLABOU

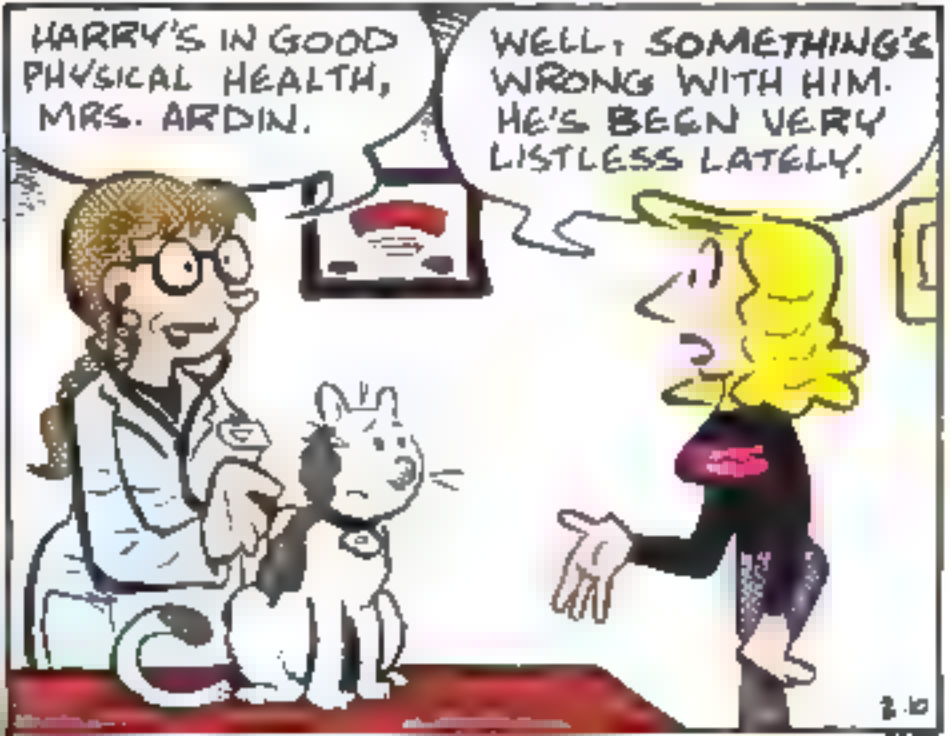

YOU KNOW, AS LONG AS WE BUY THINGS WITH CREDIT CARDS, WE'RE TOTALLY VULNERABLE TO FRAUD.
MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST CUT UP OUR CREDIT CARDS AND PAY CASH FOR EVERY-THING!
IT'D MAKE SENSE, WOULDN'T IT?
WHIRRR!
2-7
IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN IN A MILLION YEARS.
YOU SAID IT, NOT ME.
SIGN HERE, PLEASE.
THABOW


YOU KNOW, IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THESE FAMOUS IMPRESSIONIST PAINTINGS.
YOU CAN LOOK AT THEM IN BOOKS ALL YOU WANT...
...BUT NOTHING COMPARES TO THE EXPERIENCE OF SEEING THEM IN REAL LIFE!
MATIS
THE QUIET YEARS


HAVE YOU NOTICED HARRY'S BEEN KIND OF LISTLESS LATELY?
YEAH, I HAVE.


HE HASN'T BEEN TEARING AROUND THE HOUSE AND SCRATCHING UP THE FURNITURE. HE JUST SITS AND STARES OUT THE WINDOW.

MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE HIM TO THE VET.
WHY WRECK IT?
MEOW!

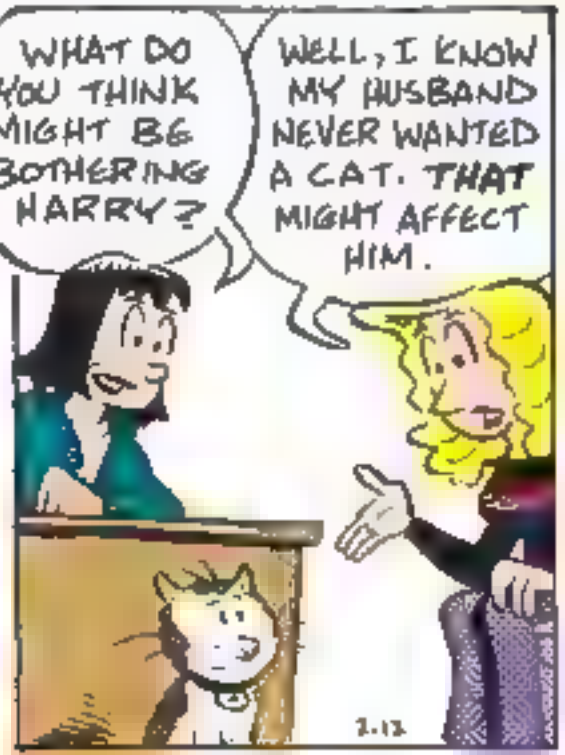

HARRY'S IN GOOD PHYSICAL HEALTH, MRS. ARDIN.
WELL, SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH HIM. HE'S BEEN VERY LISTLESS LATELY.

MAYBE THE PROBLEM IS EMOTIONAL. HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT TAKING HIM TO A PET THERAPIST?
IS THERE SUCH A THING? I DO THERAPY WITH PEOPLE EVERY DAY--BUT PETS?...

...IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE!
I'LL GIVE YOU A REFERRAL.

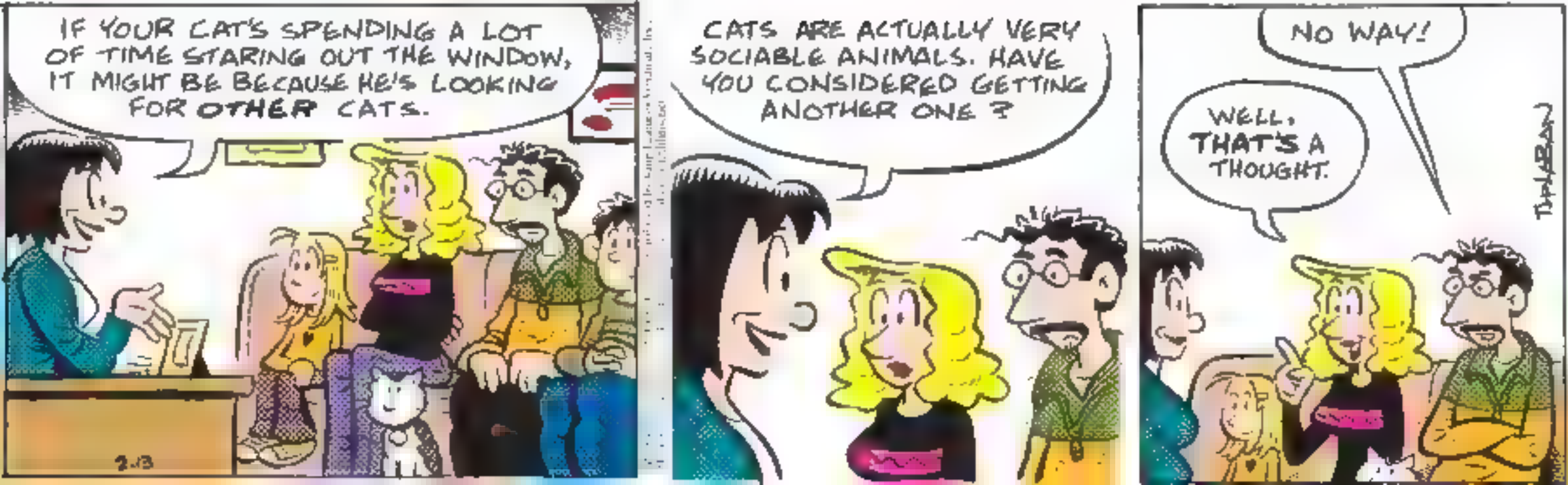
THE VET THINKS HARRY'S PROBLEM MAY BE EMOTIONAL. I'M MAKING AN APPOINTMENT WITH A PET THERAPIST.
A PET THERAPIST?
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A TOTAL SCAM, ABBY! PETS DON'T NEED THERAPY-- THEY'RE ANIMALS!
OBVIOUSLY IT WON'T BE THE SAME AS THERAPY WITH PEOPLE!
LOOK, JUST TELL ME IF YOU CAN BE THERE THURSDAY AT 5:30.
ME? WHY DO I HAVE TO COME?
THE THERAPIST CAN'T TELL WHAT'S GOING ON WITH A PET UNLESS SHE TALKS TO ITS WHOLE FAMILY!
MEOW!

I KNOW THE CONCEPT OF A PET THERAPIST SEEMS STRANGE. BUT IT HELPS IN A LOT OF CASES.

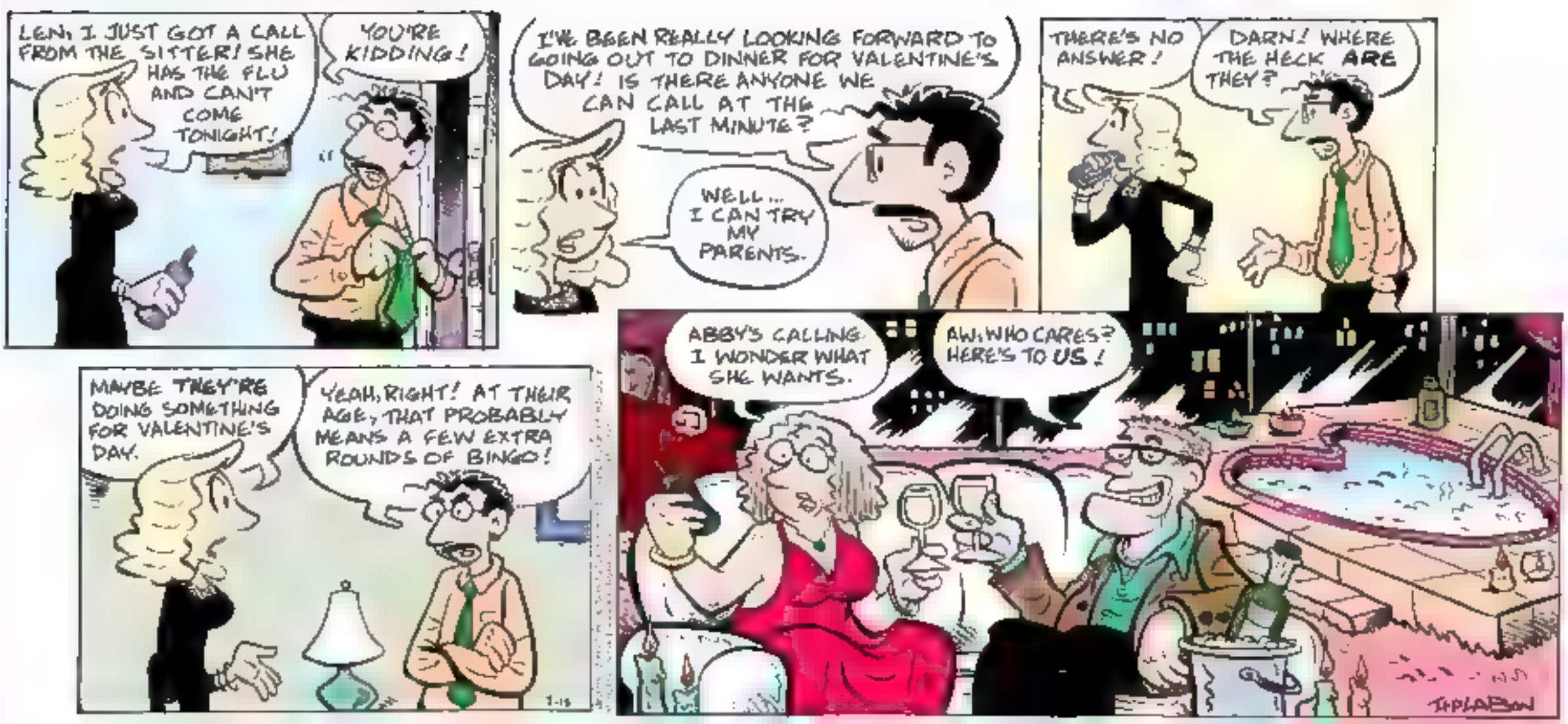

WHAT DO YOU THINK MIGHT BE BOTHERING HARRY?
WELL, I KNOW MY HUSBAND NEVER WANTED A CAT. THAT MIGHT AFFECT HIM.
2-12

SPROING!

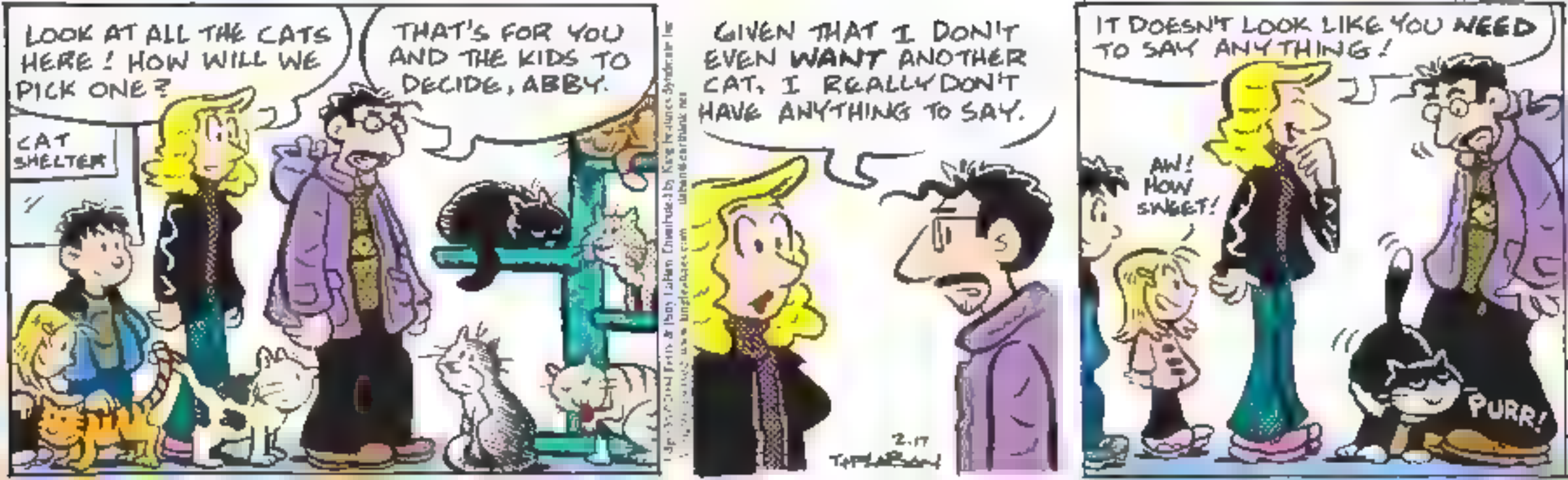
ANY OTHER IDEAS?
HEH...
PURR!

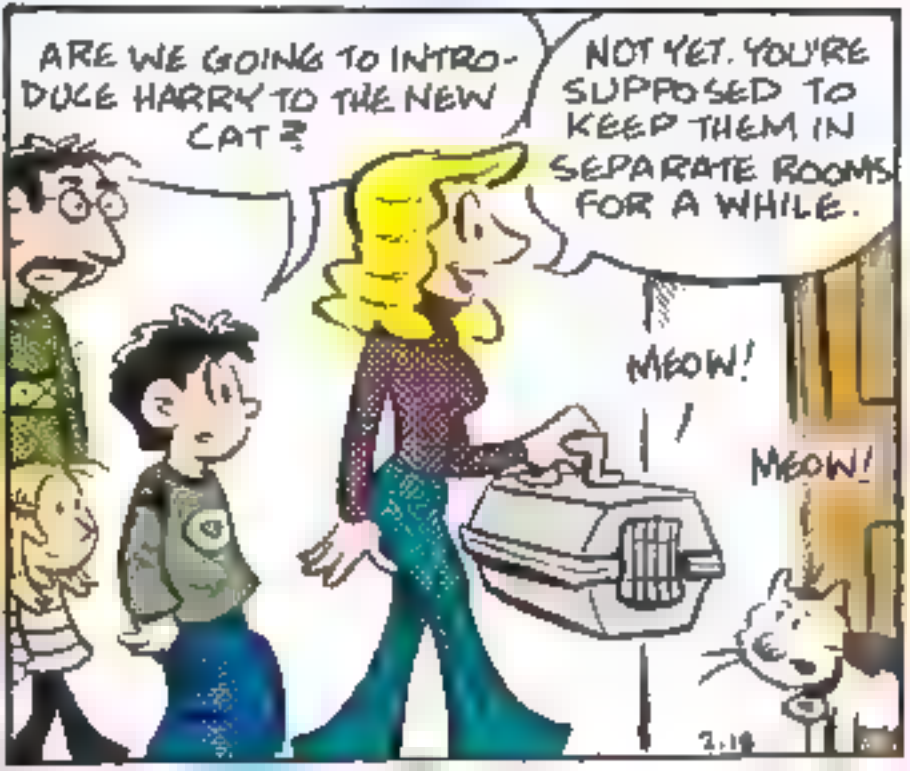

IF YOUR CAT'S SPENDING A LOT OF TIME STARING OUT THE WINDOW, IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE HE'S LOOKING FOR OTHER CATS.
CATS ARE ACTUALLY VERY SOCIABLE ANIMALS. HAVE YOU CONSIDERED GETTING ANOTHER ONE ?
NO WAY!
WELL, THAT'S A THOUGHT.
THAVEN

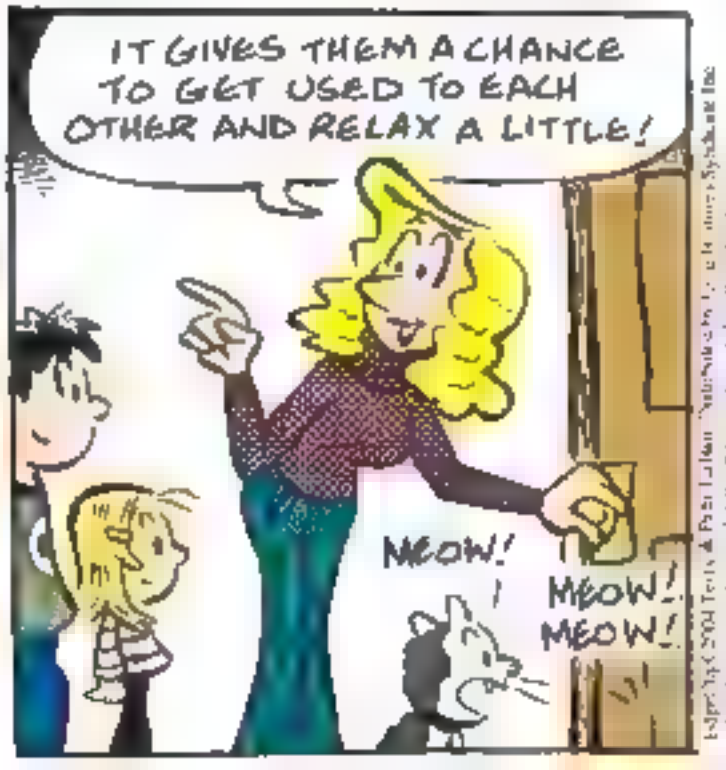
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WANT TO GET ANOTHER CAT, ABBY! ONE IS TROUBLE ENOUGH!
TWO CATS COULD BE LESS TROUBLE, LEN. THEY'D ENTERTAIN EACH OTHER!
I DON'T KNOW, ABBY-- PERSONALLY, I THINK IT MIGHT BE TIME TO GIVE HARRY AWAY. I'M SURE WE COULD FIND A GOOD HOME FOR HIM.
MAYBE. BUT THEN WE'D HAVE TO FIND ONE FOR YOU!
DAD, DID YOU SAY WHAT I THINK YOU DID?
KITTY KITTY!


LEN, I JUST GOT A CALL FROM THE SITTER! SHE HAS THE FLU AND CAN'T COME TONIGHT!
YOU'RE KIDDING!
I'VE BEEN REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING OUT TO DINNER FOR VALENTINE'S DAY! IS THERE ANYONE WE CAN CALL AT THE LAST MINUTE?
WELL... I CAN TRY MY PARENTS.
THERE'S NO ANSWER!
DARN! WHERE THE HECK ARE THEY?
MAYBE THEY'RE DOING SOMETHING FOR VALENTINE'S DAY.
YEAH, RIGHT! AT THEIR AGE, THAT PROBABLY MEANS A FEW EXTRA ROUNDS OF BINGO!
ABBY'S CALLING. I WONDER WHAT SHE WANTS.
AW, WHO CARES? HERE'S TO US!
THPLABON

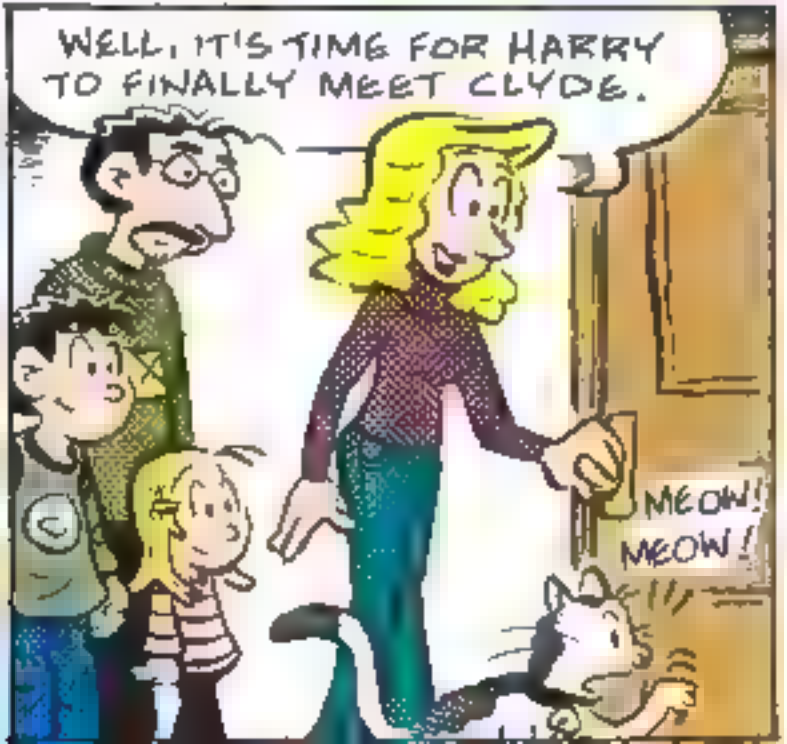
WHAT KIND OF COMPANION CAT SHOULD WE GET FOR HARRY? A KITTEN OR AN ADULT?
I SAY GO WITH A KITTEN. OLDER CATS ARE SET IN THEIR WAYS AND COULD HAVE ALL SORTS OF PROBLEMS.
YEAH--BUT KITTENS ARE ALMOST ALWAYS HYPER.
2.16
YOU HAVE TO TRAIN THEM, AND THEY'RE HARD ON THE FURNITURE.
I WONDER IF HARRY COULD LEARN TO LOVE A TURTLE?
MOW!


LOOK AT ALL THE CATS HERE! HOW WILL WE PICK ONE?
CAT SHELTER
THAT'S FOR YOU AND THE KIDS TO DECIDE, ABBY.
GIVEN THAT I DON'T EVEN WANT ANOTHER CAT, I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY.
2.17
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU NEED TO SAY ANYTHING!
AW! HOW SWEET!
PURR!


ARE WE GOING TO INTRODUCE HARRY TO THE NEW CAT?
NOT YET. YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO KEEP THEM IN SEPARATE ROOMS FOR A WHILE.
MEOW!
MEOW!

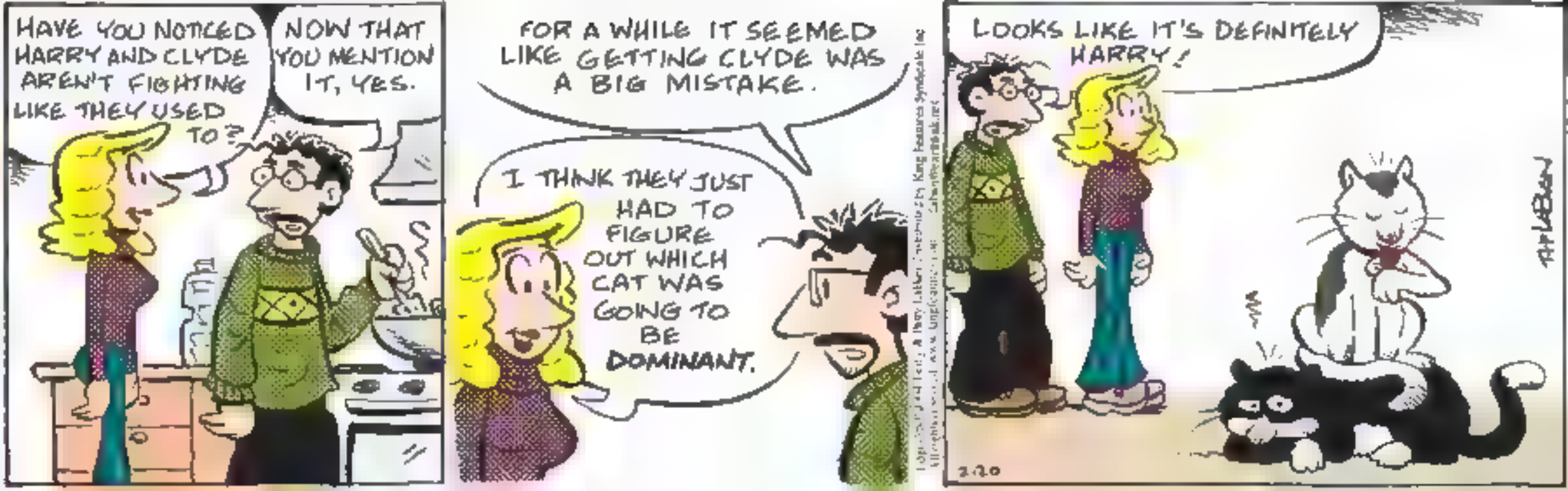

IT GIVES THEM A CHANCE TO GET USED TO EACH OTHER AND RELAX A LITTLE!
MEOW!
MEOW! MEOW!

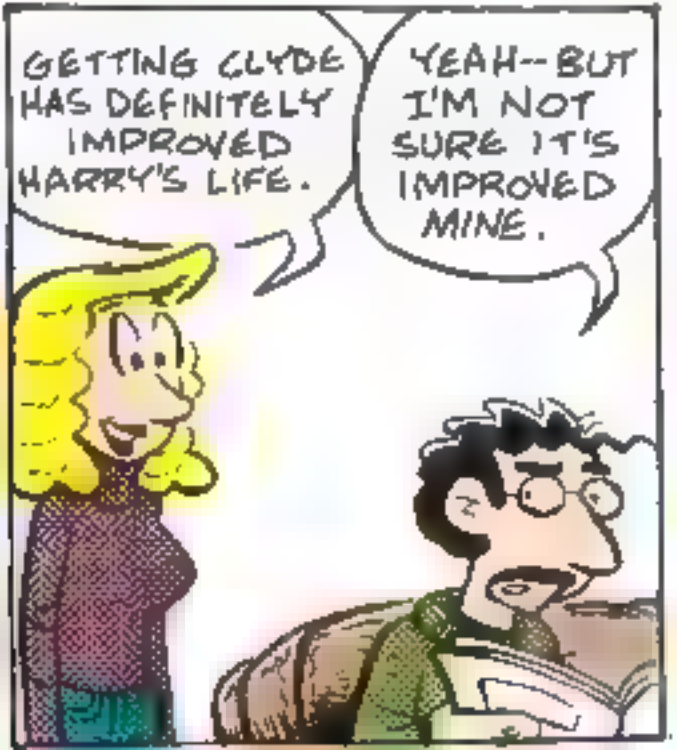
WHEN DO YOU THINK THEY START RELAXING?
SCRATCH!
YOWL!!
HISSSS!!
RRRRR...
MEOW!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
YOWWL!


WELL, IT'S TIME FOR HARRY TO FINALLY MEET CLYDE.
MEOW! MEOW!

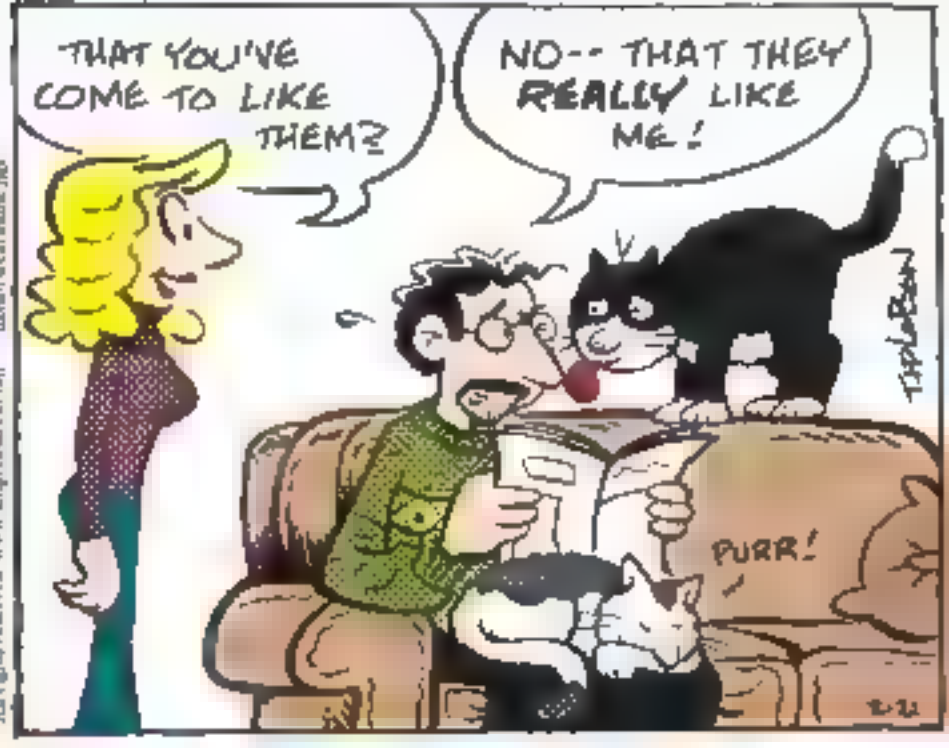
THEY SEEM A LITTLE HESITANT.
OH, I THINK THEY'LL BE GREAT FRIENDS. THEY JUST NEED TO CHECK EACH OTHER OUT FOR A MINUTE.
SNIFF! SNIFF!

OR, MAYBE A LITTLE LONGER.
REOOWR!!


HAVE YOU NOTICED HARRY AND CLYDE AREN'T FIGHTING LIKE THEY USED TO?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YES.
FOR A WHILE IT SEEMED LIKE GETTING CLYDE WAS A BIG MISTAKE.
I THINK THEY JUST HAD TO FIGURE OUT WHICH CAT WAS GOING TO BE DOMINANT.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S DEFINITELY HARRY!
2-20


GETTING CLYDE HAS DEFINITELY IMPROVED HARRY'S LIFE.
YEAH--BUT I'M NOT SURE IT'S IMPROVED MINE.

YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD SPORT ABOUT IT.
WELL, I'VE NEVER BEEN A CAT PERSON, BUT LIVING WITH TWO OF THEM HAS MADE ME REALIZE SOMETHING.

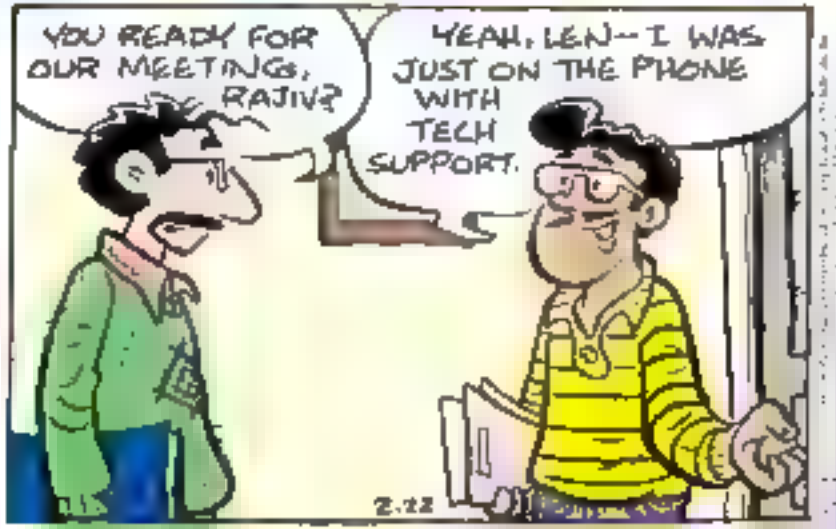

THAT YOU'VE COME TO LIKE THEM?
NO-- THAT THEY REALLY LIKE ME!
PURR!

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER. THIS IS GOVINDA SPEAKING. HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
SAY, CAN I ASK WHERE YOU'RE LOCATED?

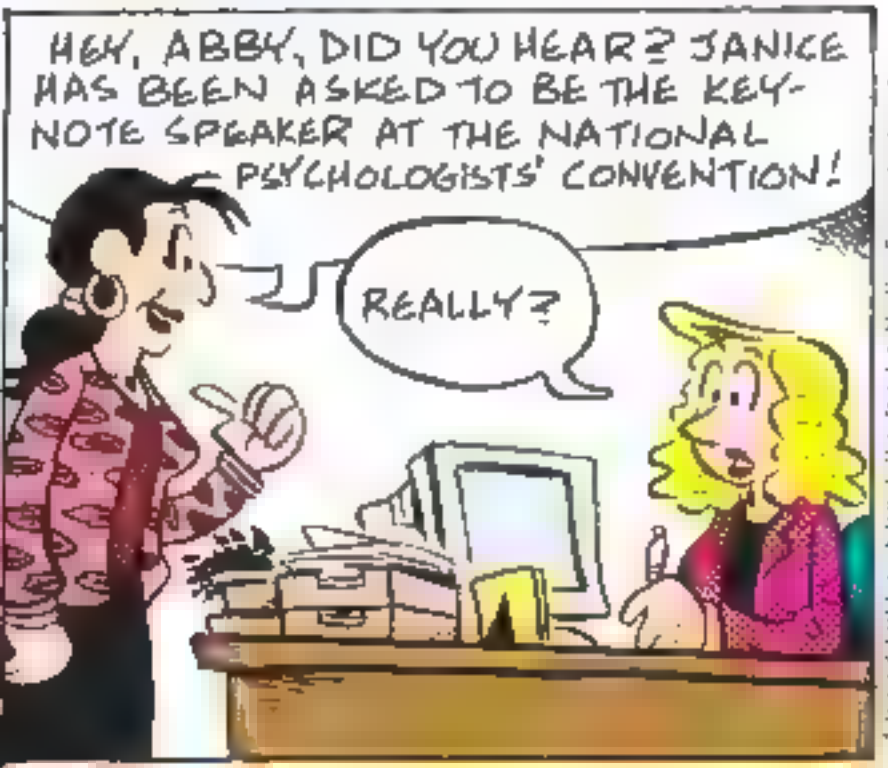
I'M IN BOMBAY, SIR.
REALLY? MY DAD WENT TO THE UNIVERSITY IN BOMBAY.

I'M A STUDENT MYSELF AT B.U.
NO KIDDING! MY COUSIN STUDIES COMPUTER ENGINEERING THERE! SANJAY GUPTA IS HIS NAME.

IS HE A TALL, THIN GUY WITH GLASSES?
OH MY GOSH! YOU KNOW HIM?! THAT'S SO WILD!...


YOU READY FOR OUR MEETINGS, RAJIV?
YEAH, LEN—I WAS JUST ON THE PHONE WITH TECH SUPPORT.
2.22

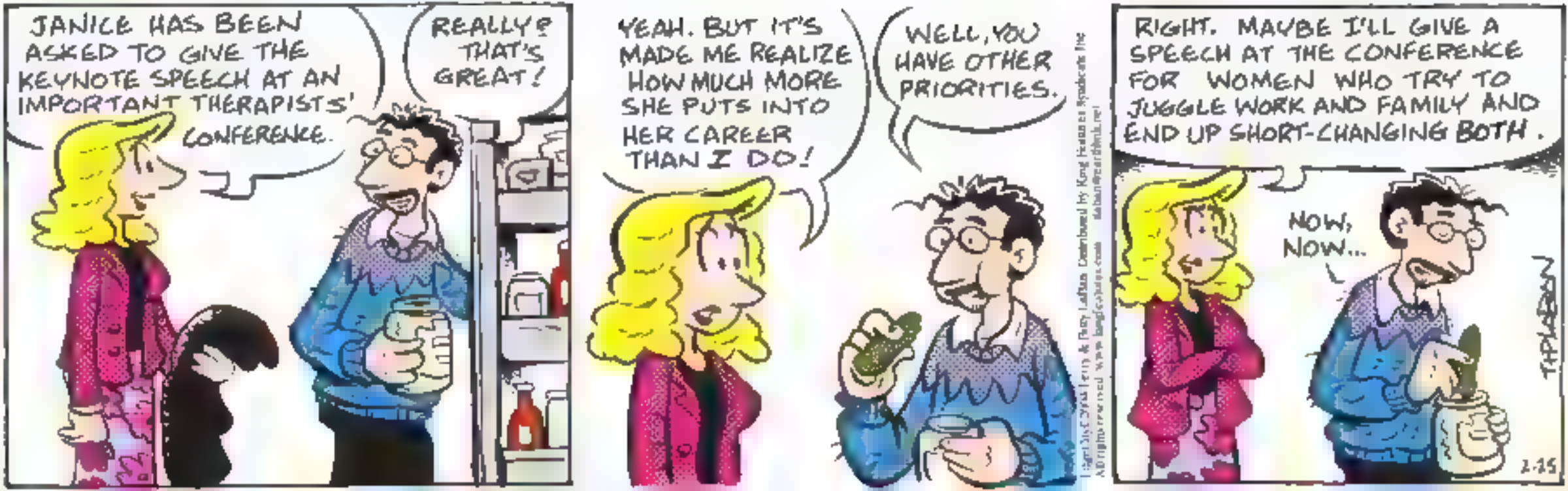
TECH SUPPORT, HUH?
HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT HALF THE TIMES YOU CALL THESE DAYS, YOU END UP TALKING TO SOMEONE IN INDIA?
TAPLIN

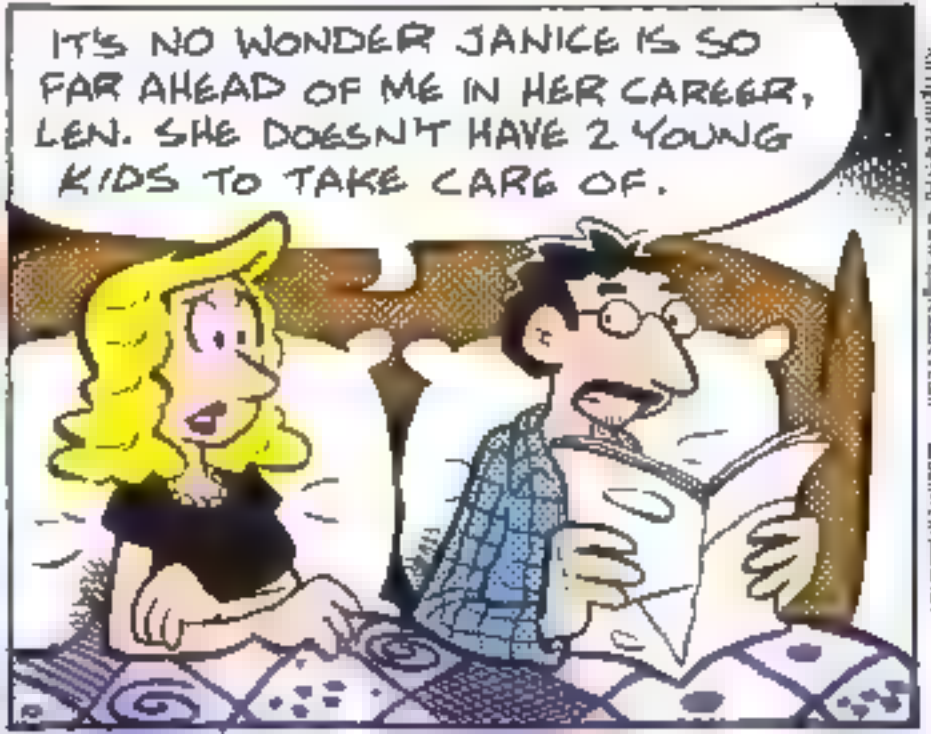

HEY, ABBY, DID YOU HEAR? JANICE HAS BEEN ASKED TO BE THE KEY-NOTE SPEAKER AT THE NATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS' CONVENTION!
REALLY?

SHE'S GETTING AN AWARD FOR A PAPER SHE WROTE, AS WELL!
WOW! THAT'S WHAT SHE'S ALWAYS WANTED TO DO! I'LL HAVE TO GO TELL HER...
2.23

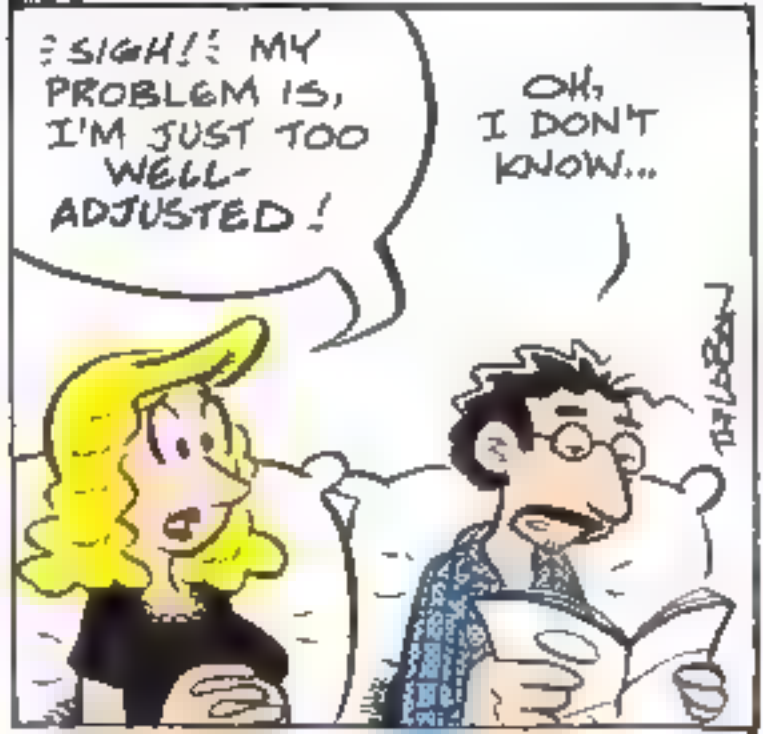
...WHAT A TOTAL FAILURE I FEEL LIKE RIGHT NOW!
CONGRAT-ULATIONS!

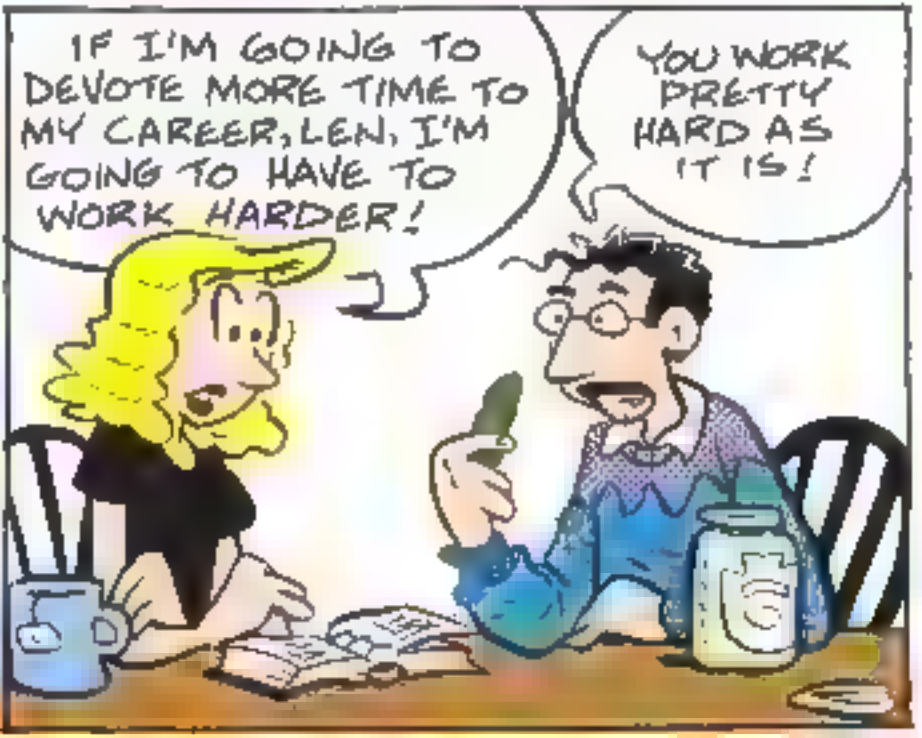
I HEARD YOU'RE GIVING THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT THE PSYCHOLOGISTS' CONVENTION, JANICE. CONGRATULATIONS!
THANKS, ABBY. THE LAST PAPER I WROTE GOT A LOT OF ATTENTION!
I'M REALLY IMPRESSED BY WHAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED. I MEAN, I'VE JUST BEEN SO PREOCCUPIED WITH...
BREE!
... WHAT, EXACTLY?
CAN YOU EXCUSE ME? 'PSYCHOLOGY TODAY' WANTS TO DISCUSS A COVER ARTICLE.
2.24


JANICE HAS BEEN ASKED TO GIVE THE KEYNOTE SPEECH AT AN IMPORTANT THERAPISTS' CONFERENCE.
REALLY? THAT'S GREAT!
YEAH. BUT IT'S MADE ME REALIZE HOW MUCH MORE SHE PUTS INTO HER CAREER THAN I DO!
WELL, YOU HAVE OTHER PRIORITIES.
RIGHT. MAYBE I'LL GIVE A SPEECH AT THE CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN WHO TRY TO JUGGLE WORK AND FAMILY AND END UP SHORT-CHANGING BOTH.
NOW, NOW...
THPLABAN
2-15

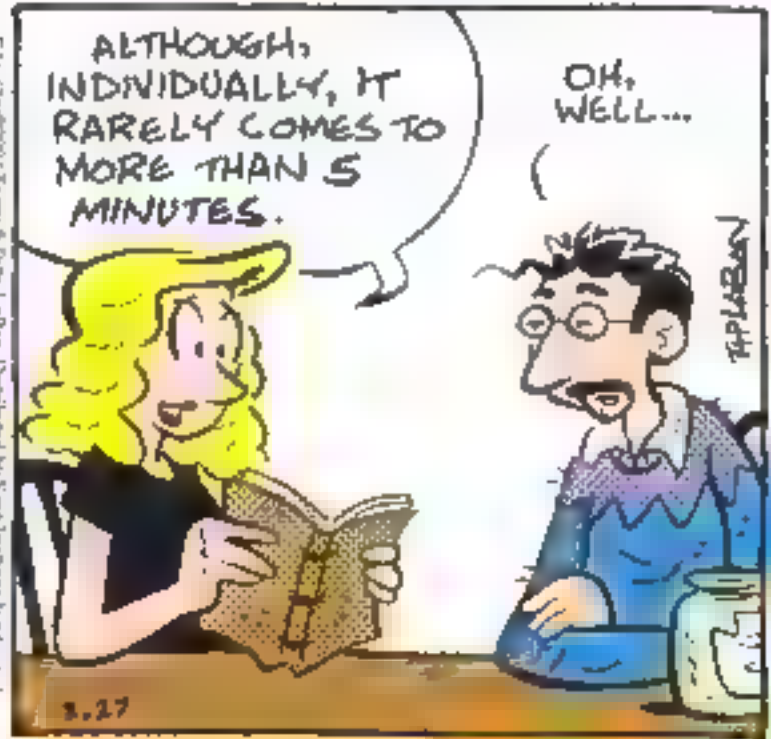

IT'S NO WONDER JANICE IS SO FAR AHEAD OF ME IN HER CAREER, LEN. SHE DOESN'T HAVE 2 YOUNG KIDS TO TAKE CARE OF.

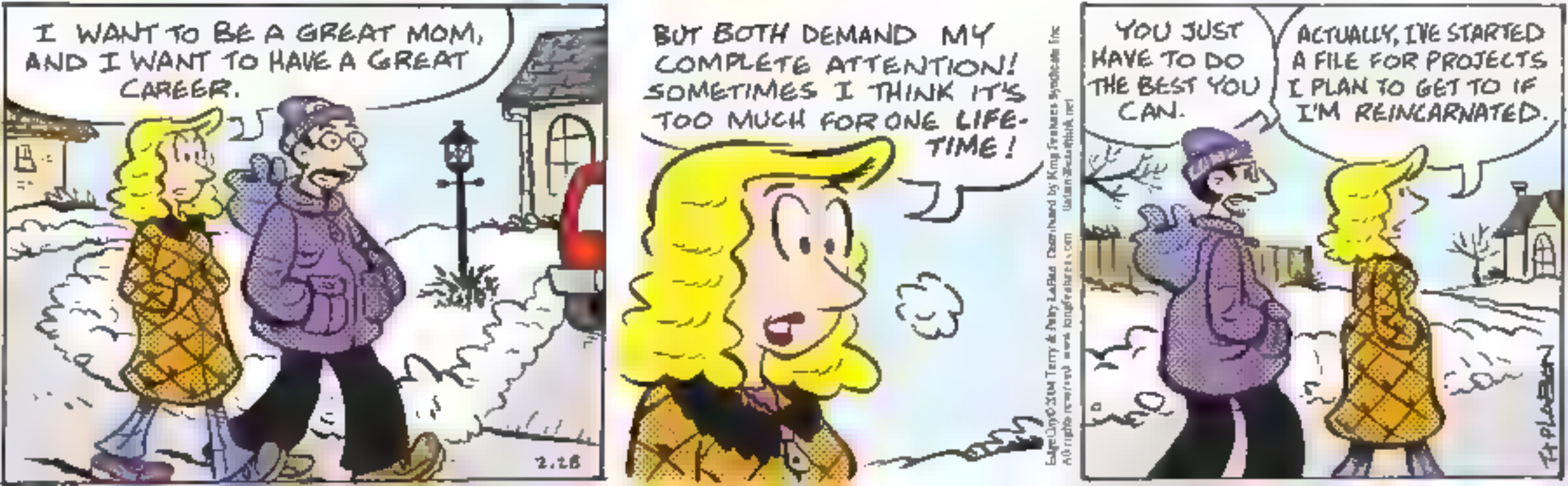
IN FACT, SHE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH OF A PERSONAL LIFE AT ALL. SHE'S OBSESSIVE, COMPULSIVE, AND NEVER SEEMS TO HAVE MUCH FUN.
2-26

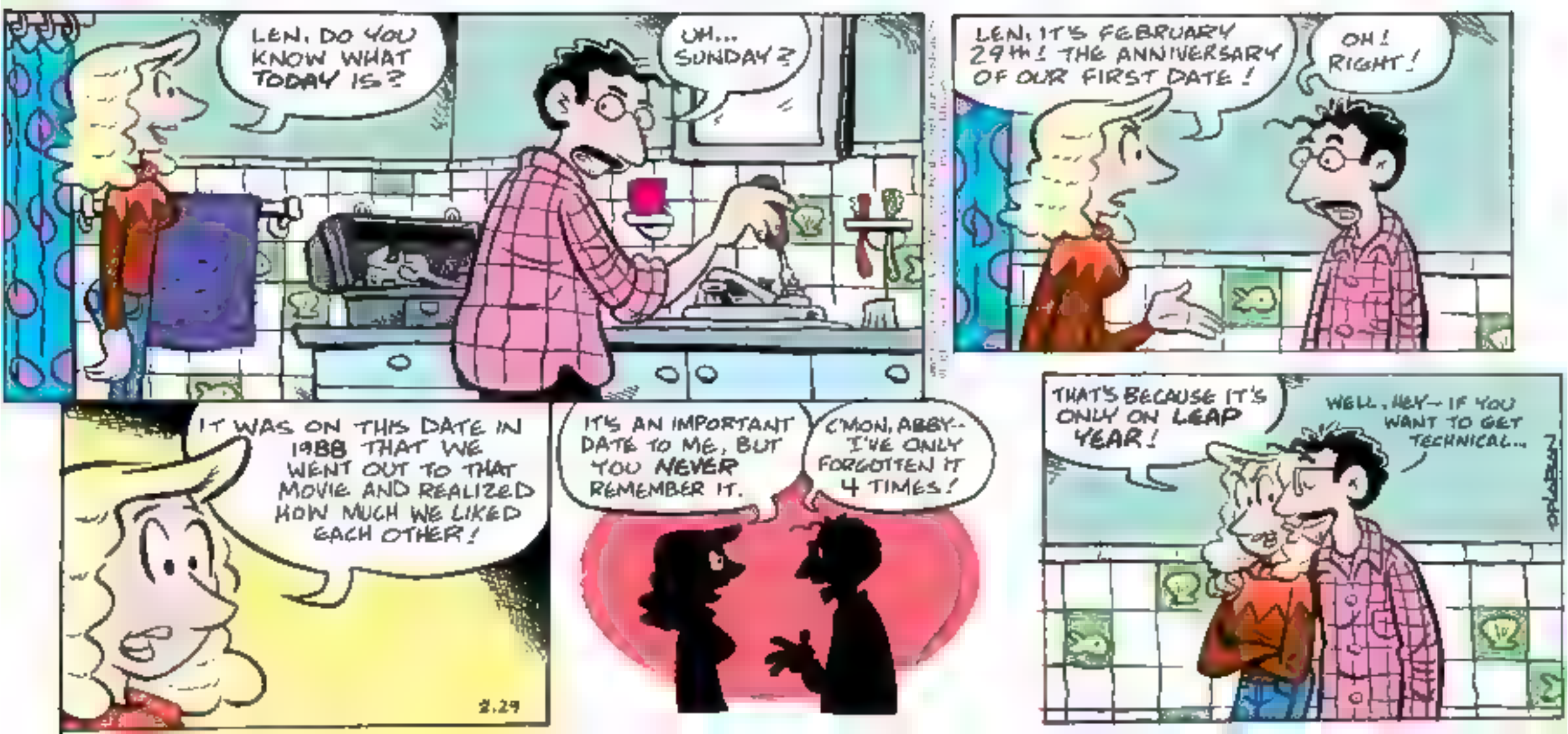

:SIGH!: MY PROBLEM IS, I'M JUST TOO WELL-ADJUSTED!
OH, I DON'T KNOW...
TRUDEAU

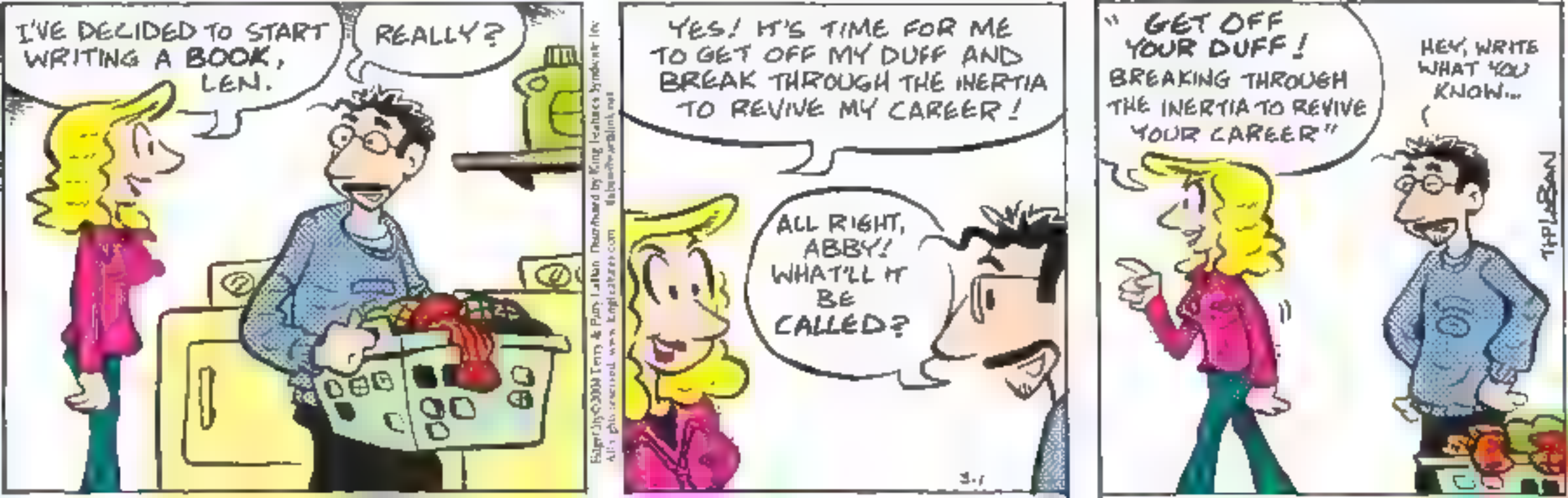

IF I'M GOING TO DEVOTE MORE TIME TO MY CAREER, LEN, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO WORK HARDER!
YOU WORK PRETTY HARD AS IT IS!

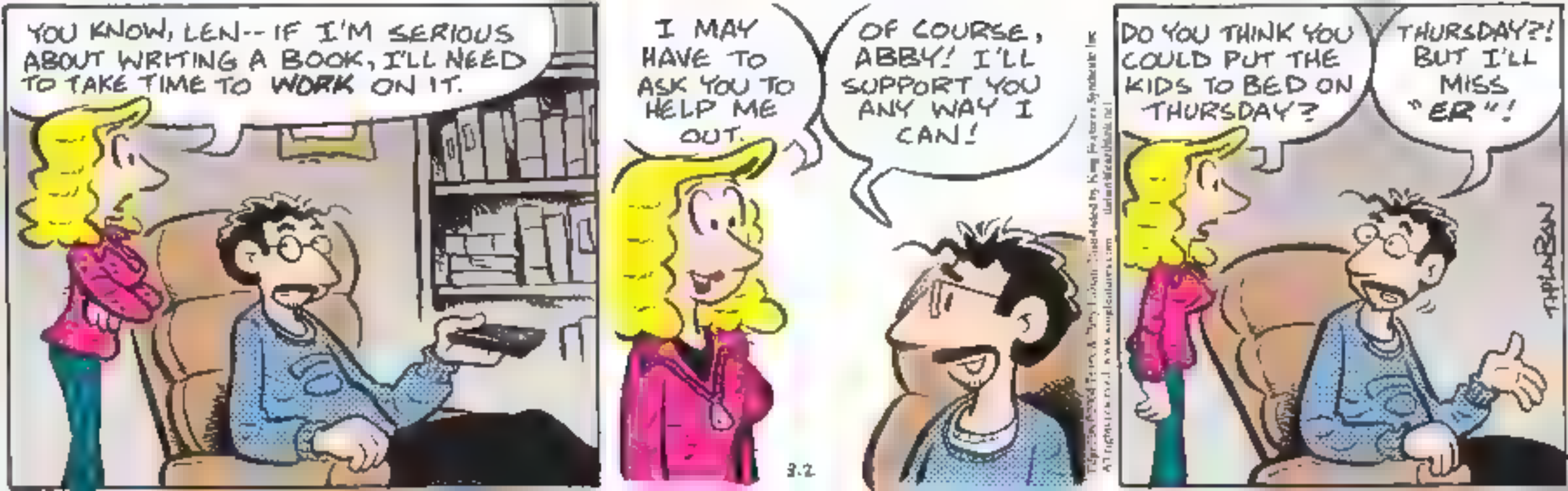
WELL, LOOKING AT MY SCHEDULE, I SEE A LOT OF SPARE TIME. TAKEN TOGETHER, IT COMES TO SEVERAL HOURS A DAY!
DAILY PLANNER


ALTHOUGH, INDIVIDUALLY, IT RARELY COMES TO MORE THAN 5 MINUTES.
OH, WELL...
TAPLIN
3.27


I WANT TO BE A GREAT MOM, AND I WANT TO HAVE A GREAT CAREER.
2.28
BUT BOTH DEMAND MY COMPLETE ATTENTION! SOMETIMES I THINK IT'S TOO MUCH FOR ONE LIFE-TIME!
YOU JUST HAVE TO DO THE BEST YOU CAN.
ACTUALLY, I'VE STARTED A FILE FOR PROJECTS I PLAN TO GET TO IF I'M REINCARNATED.

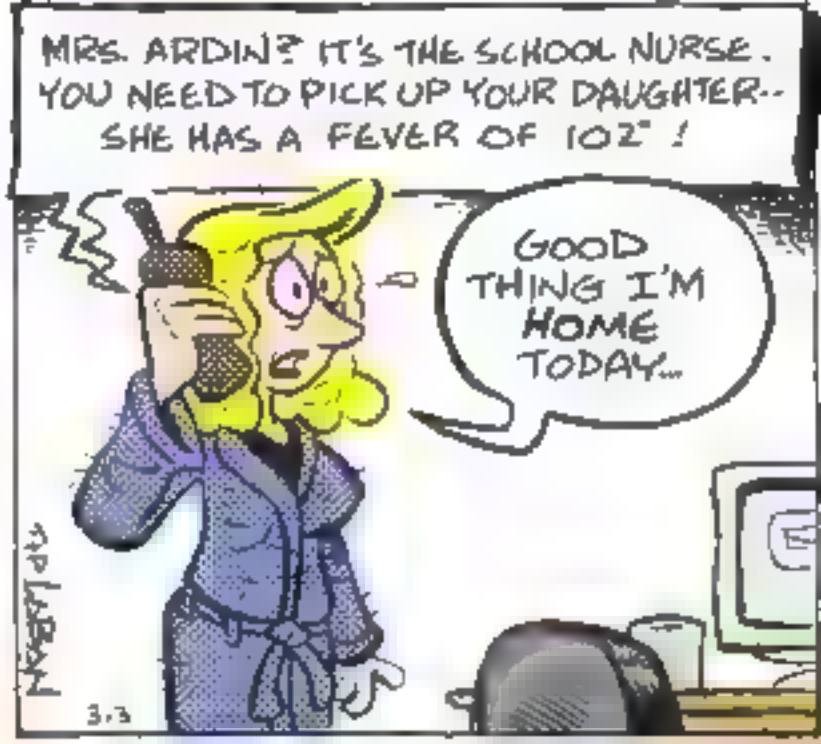

LEN, DO YOU KNOW WHAT TODAY IS?
UH... SUNDAY?
LEN, IT'S FEBRUARY 29TH! THE ANNIVERSARY OF OUR FIRST DATE!
OH! RIGHT!
IT WAS ON THIS DATE IN 1988 THAT WE WENT OUT TO THAT MOVIE AND REALIZED HOW MUCH WE LIKED EACH OTHER!
2.29
IT'S AN IMPORTANT DATE TO ME, BUT YOU NEVER REMEMBER IT.
C'MON, ABBY-- I'VE ONLY FORGOTTEN IT 4 TIMES!
THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S ONLY ON LEAP YEAR!
WELL, HEY— IF YOU WANT TO GET TECHNICAL...

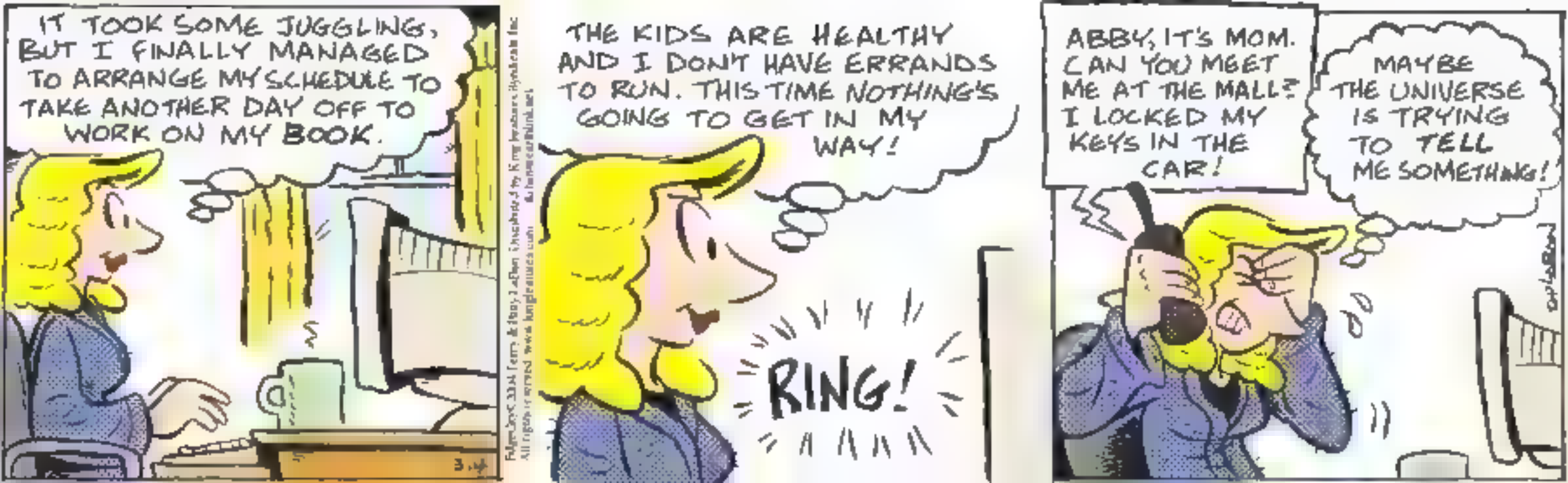

I'VE DECIDED TO START WRITING A BOOK, LEN.
REALLY?
YES! IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GET OFF MY DUFF AND BREAK THROUGH THE INERTIA TO REVIVE MY CAREER!
ALL RIGHT, ABBY! WHAT'LL IT BE CALLED?
"GET OFF YOUR DUFF! BREAKING THROUGH THE INERTIA TO REVIVE YOUR CAREER"
HEY, WRITE WHAT YOU KNOW...
TRIBUNE

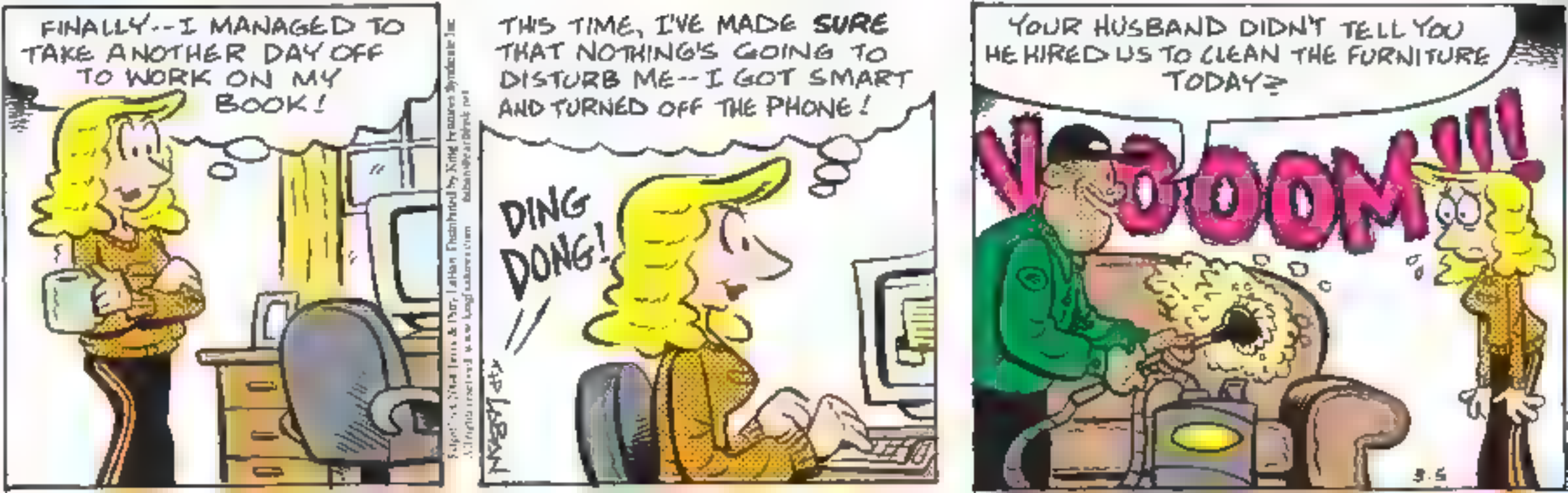

YOU KNOW, LEN-- IF I'M SERIOUS ABOUT WRITING A BOOK, I'LL NEED TO TAKE TIME TO WORK ON IT.
I MAY HAVE TO ASK YOU TO HELP ME OUT.
OF COURSE, ABBY! I'LL SUPPORT YOU ANY WAY I CAN!
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD PUT THE KIDS TO BED ON THURSDAY?
THURSDAY?! BUT I'LL MISS "ER"!
THAABAN

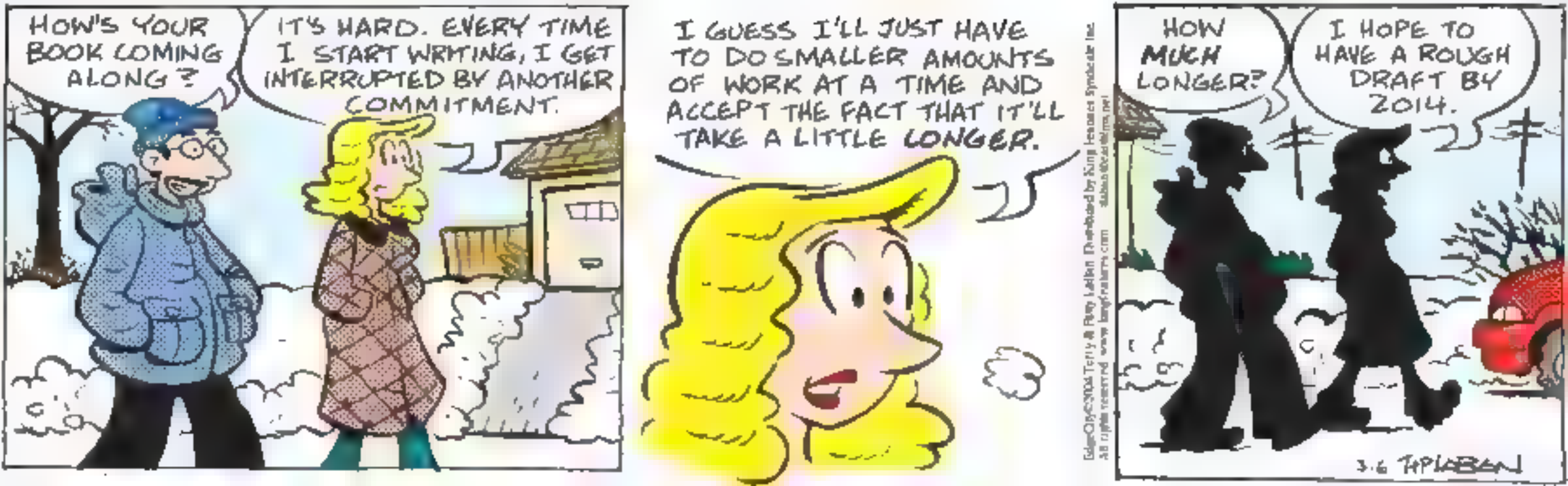
OH BOY! I DID IT! TOOK A WHOLE DAY OFF TO WORK ON MY BOOK!

IT JUST GOES TO SHOW THAT YOU CAN FIND THE TIME TO PURSUE YOUR DREAMS IF YOU REALLY WANT TO!
BRIIING!


MRS. ARDIN? IT'S THE SCHOOL NURSE. YOU NEED TO PICK UP YOUR DAUGHTER-- SHE HAS A FEVER OF 102°!
GOOD THING I'M HOME TODAY...
3-3


IT TOOK SOME JUGGLING, BUT I FINALLY MANAGED TO ARRANGE MY SCHEDULE TO TAKE ANOTHER DAY OFF TO WORK ON MY BOOK.
THE KIDS ARE HEALTHY AND I DONT HAVE ERRANDS TO RUN. THIS TIME NOTHING'S GOING TO GET IN MY WAY!
RING!
ABBY, IT'S MOM. CAN YOU MEET ME AT THE MALL? I LOCKED MY KEYS IN THE CAR!
MAYBE THE UNIVERSE IS TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING!


FINALLY--I MANAGED TO TAKE ANOTHER DAY OFF TO WORK ON MY BOOK!
THIS TIME, I'VE MADE SURE THAT NOTHING'S GOING TO DISTURB ME--I GOT SMART AND TURNED OFF THE PHONE!
DING DONG!
YOUR HUSBAND DIDN'T TELL YOU HE HIRED US TO CLEAN THE FURNITURE TODAY?
BOOM!!!

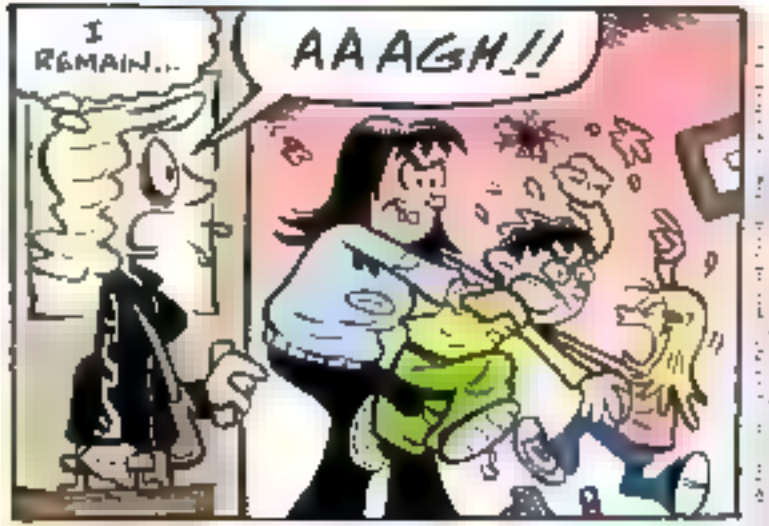

HOW'S YOUR BOOK COMING ALONG?
IT'S HARD. EVERY TIME I START WRITING, I GET INTERRUPTED BY ANOTHER COMMITMENT.
I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO SMALLER AMOUNTS OF WORK AT A TIME AND ACCEPT THE FACT THAT IT'LL TAKE A LITTLE LONGER.
HOW MUCH LONGER?
I HOPE TO HAVE A ROUGH DRAFT BY 2014.
3-6 TAPLABAN

Daily Affirmation for Monday, March 8th

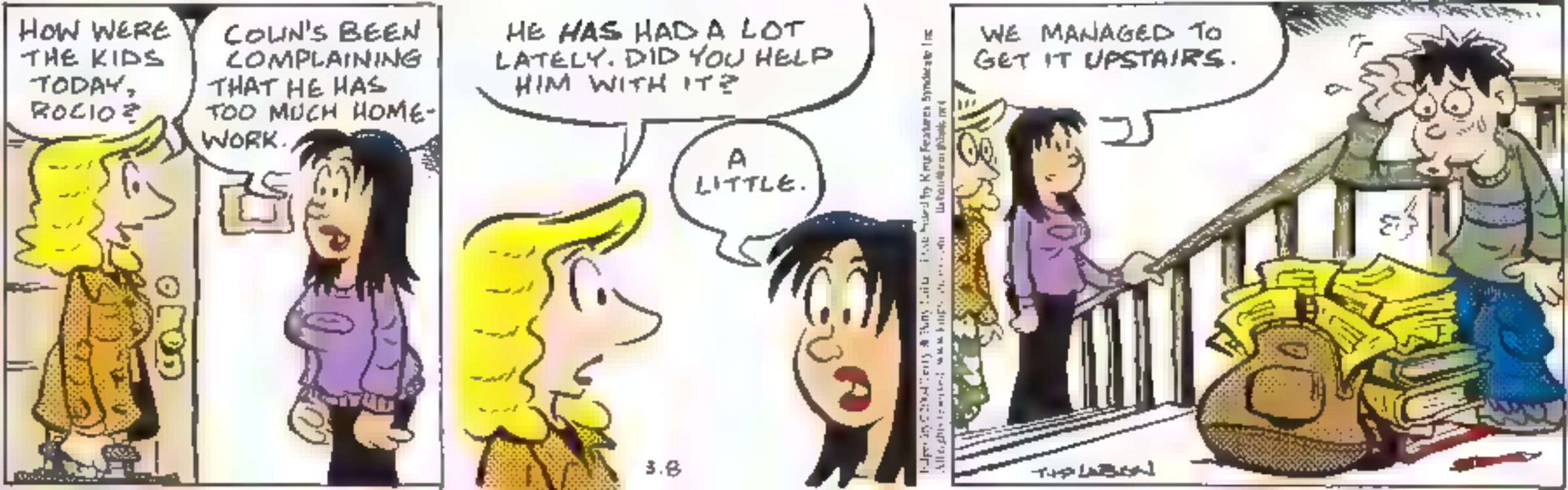
Amidst life's daily stresses, I remain calm inside, filled with joy and peace.

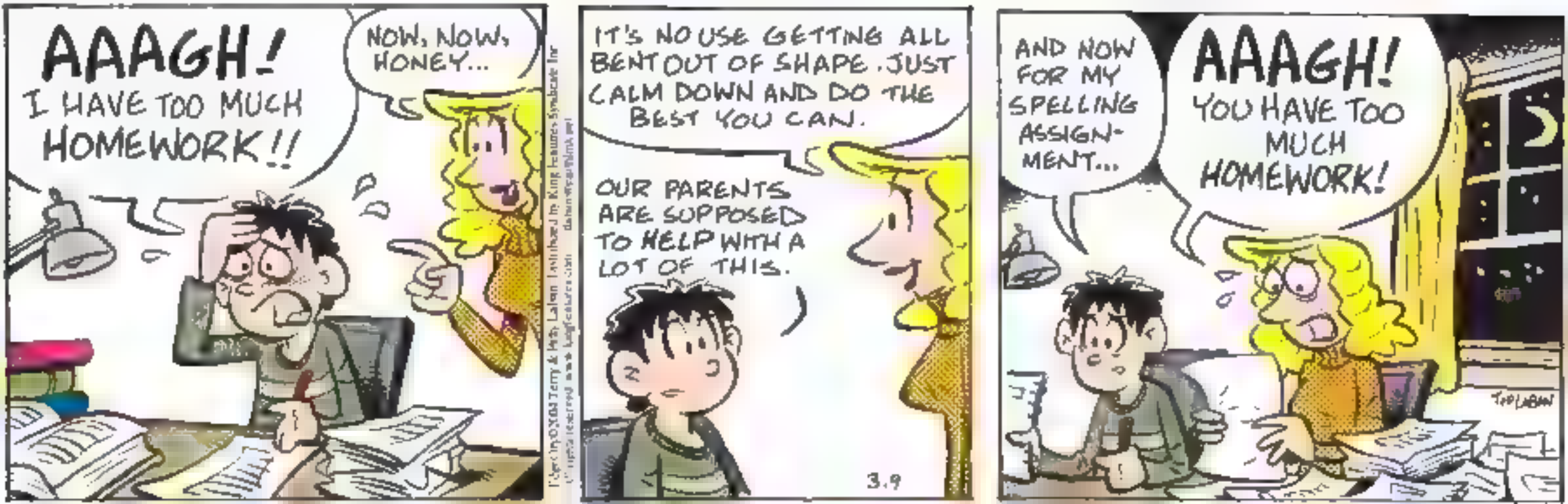
I REMAIN CALM INSIDE, FILLED WITH JOY AND PEACE.
HONK!
HONK!

I REMAIN CALM INSIDE... ... FILLED WITH...UM...
BUZZ!
RING!
BREEE!

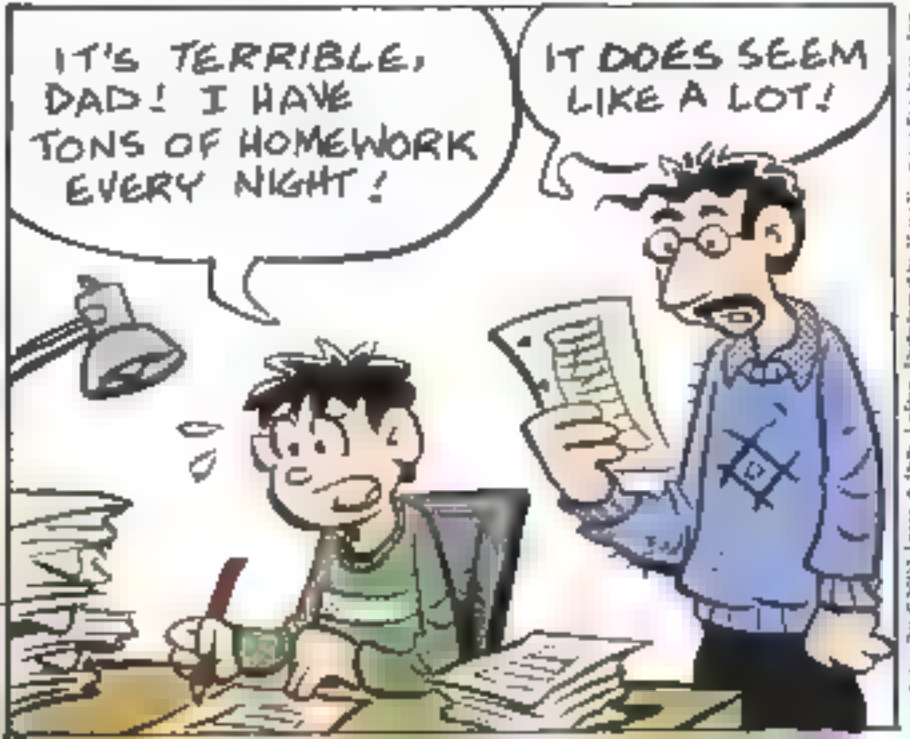

I REMAIN...
AAAGH!!

I WONDER WHERE I CAN FIND SOME DAILY AFFIRMATIONS THAT ACTUALLY LAST THE WHOLE DAY?


HOW WERE THE KIDS TODAY, ROCIO?
COLIN'S BEEN COMPLAINING THAT HE HAS TOO MUCH HOMEWORK.
HE HAS HAD A LOT LATELY. DID YOU HELP HIM WITH IT?
A LITTLE.
3.8
WE MANAGED TO GET IT UPSTAIRS.


AAAGH!
I HAVE TOO MUCH HOMEWORK!!
NOW, NOW, HONEY...
IT'S NO USE GETTING ALL BENT OUT OF SHAPE. JUST CALM DOWN AND DO THE BEST YOU CAN.
OUR PARENTS ARE SUPPOSED TO HELP WITH A LOT OF THIS.
3.9
AND NOW FOR MY SPELLING ASSIGNMENT...
AAAGH!
YOU HAVE TOO MUCH HOMEWORK!

IT SEEMS LIKE COLIN HAS HAD AN AWFUL LOT OF HOMEWORK LATELY.
THEY SAY THAT'S THE TREND THESE DAYS
BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT. A LITTLE WORK NEVER HURT ANYONE.
GOOD--BECAUSE I TOOK THE FIRST SHIFT!
DAD, YOU NEED TO GO OVER THESE WITH ME.
3-10



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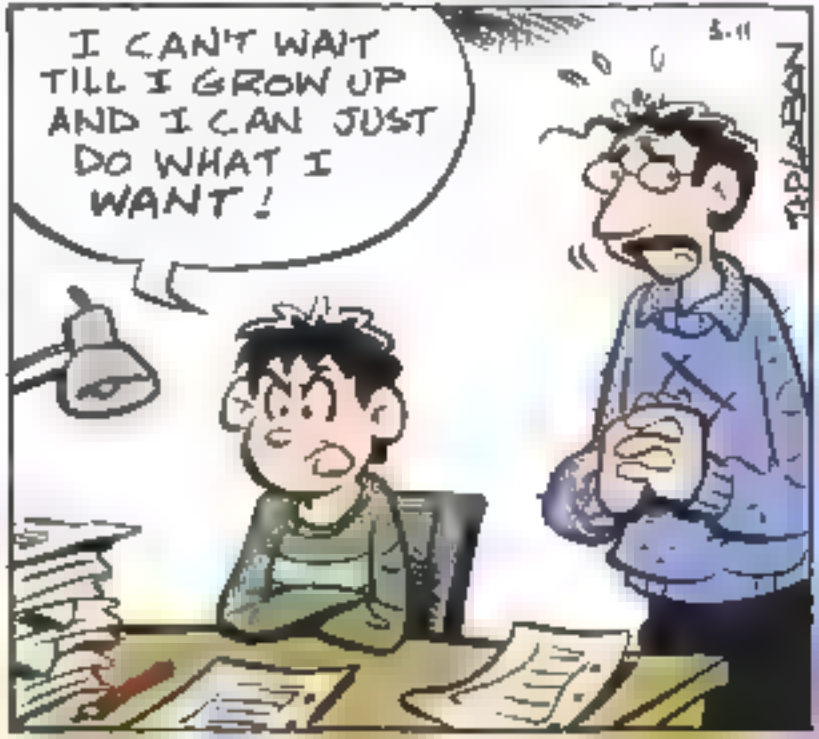
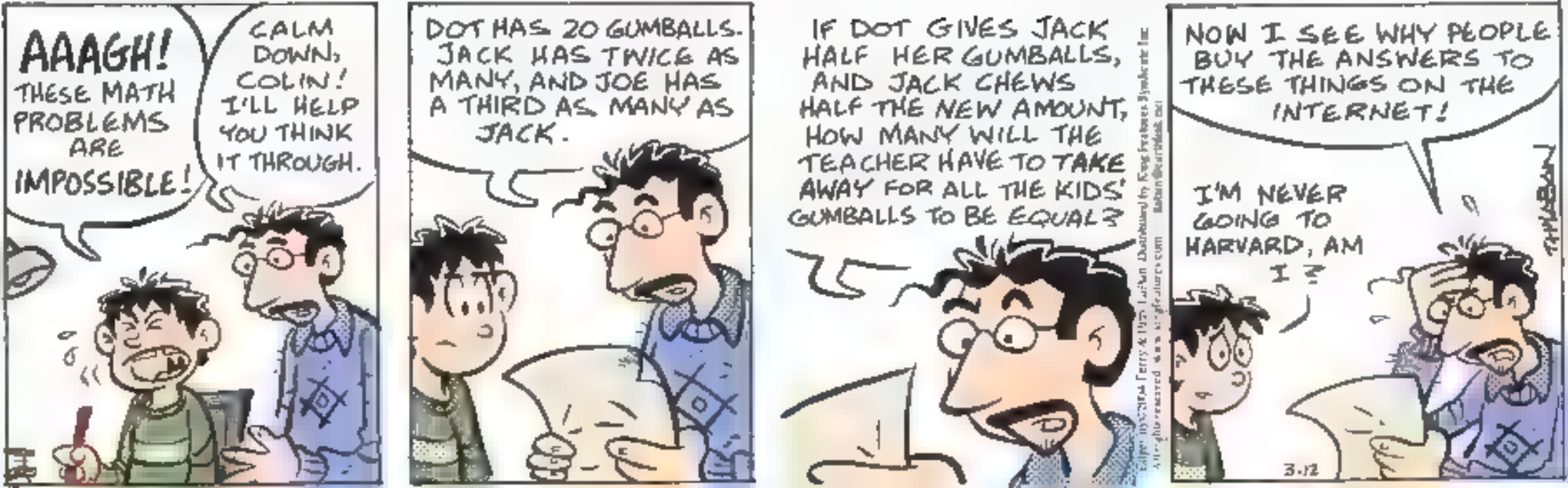
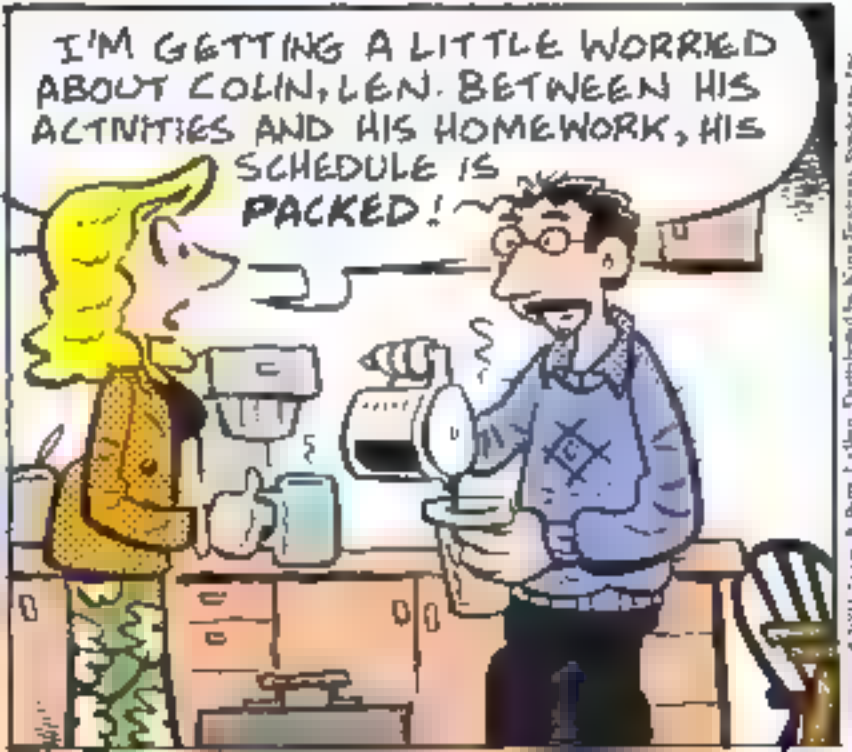
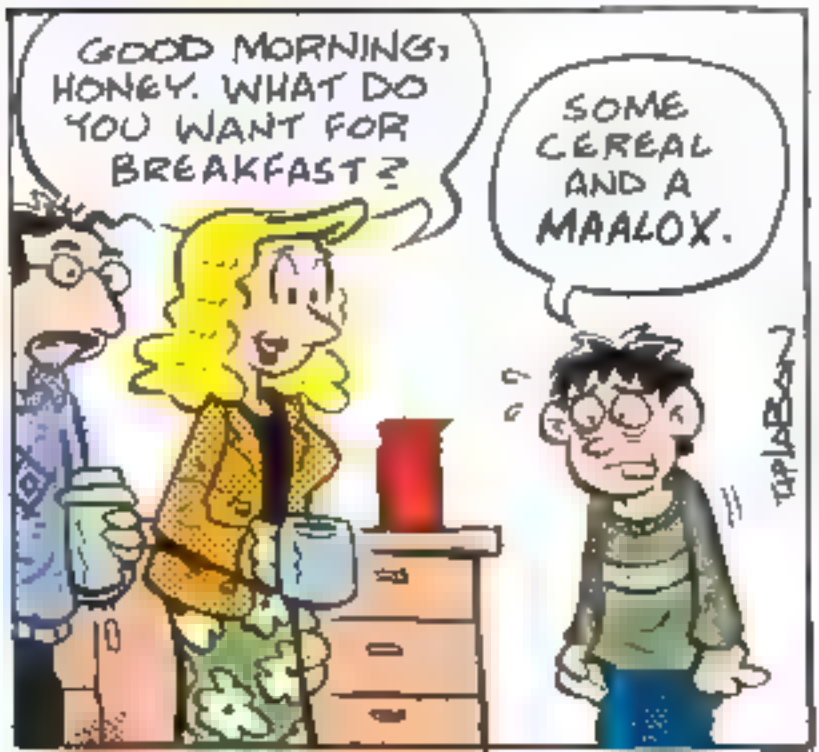



AAAGH! THESE MATH PROBLEMS ARE IMPOSSIBLE!
CALM DOWN, COLIN! I'LL HELP YOU THINK IT THROUGH.
DOT HAS 20 GUMBALLS. JACK HAS TWICE AS MANY, AND JOE HAS A THIRD AS MANY AS JACK.
IF DOT GIVES JACK HALF HER GUMBALLS, AND JACK CHEWS HALF THE NEW AMOUNT, HOW MANY WILL THE TEACHER HAVE TO TAKE AWAY FOR ALL THE KIDS' GUMBALLS TO BE EQUAL?
NOW I SEE WHY PEOPLE BUY THE ANSWERS TO THESE THINGS ON THE INTERNET!
I'M NEVER GOING TO HARVARD, AM I?
3-12

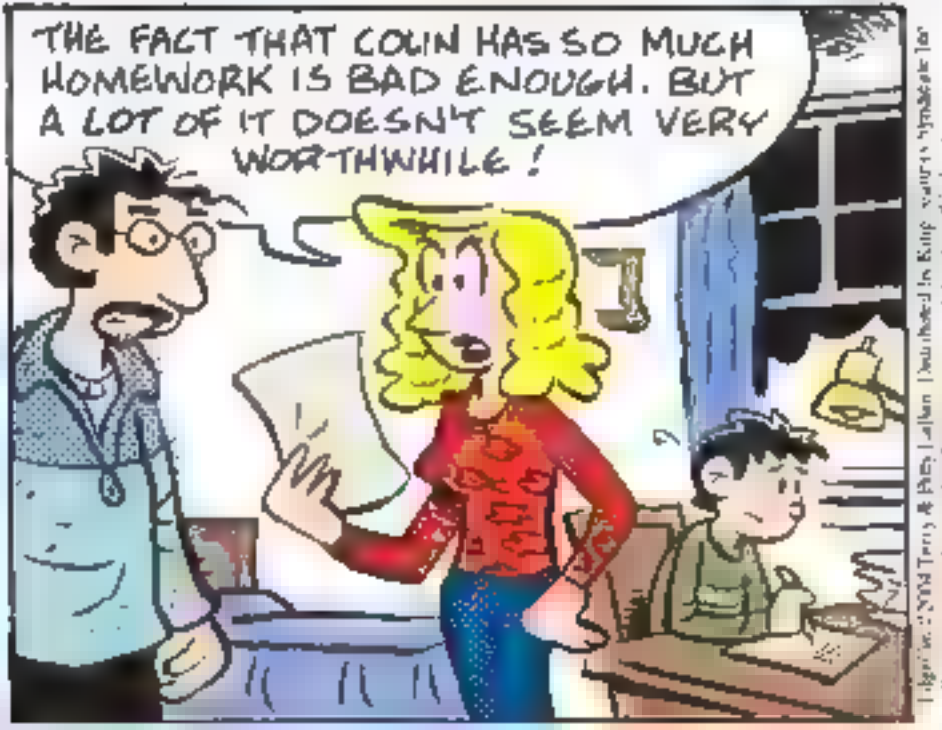

I'M GETTING A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT COLIN, LEN. BETWEEN HIS ACTIVITIES AND HIS HOMEWORK, HIS SCHEDULE IS PACKED!

IT'S A LOT OF STRESS FOR A KID HIS AGE!
AW, HE'LL BE OK.
I HOPE SO.
3-13

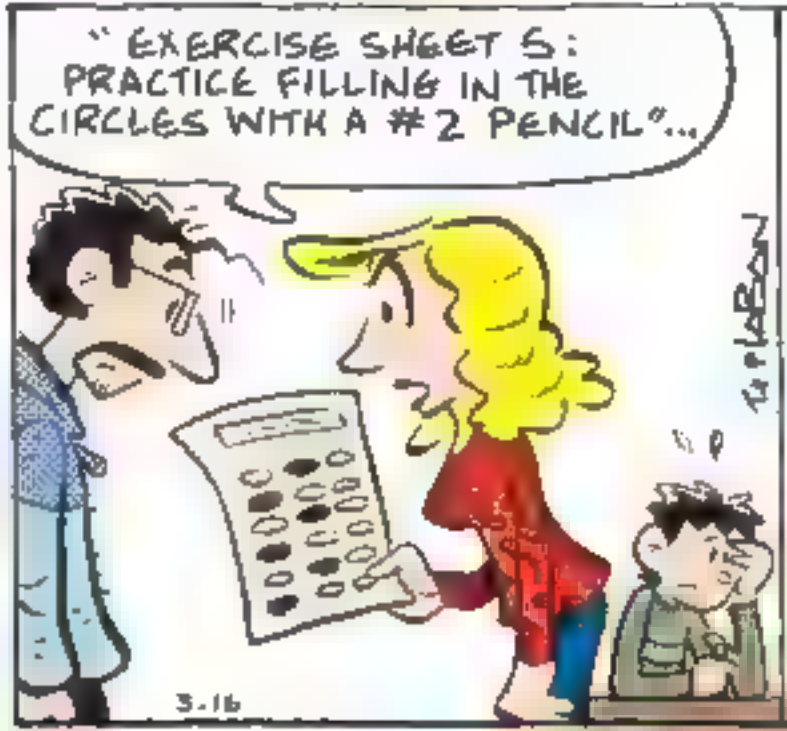

GOOD MORNING, HONEY. WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR BREAKFAST?
SOME CEREAL AND A MAALOX.

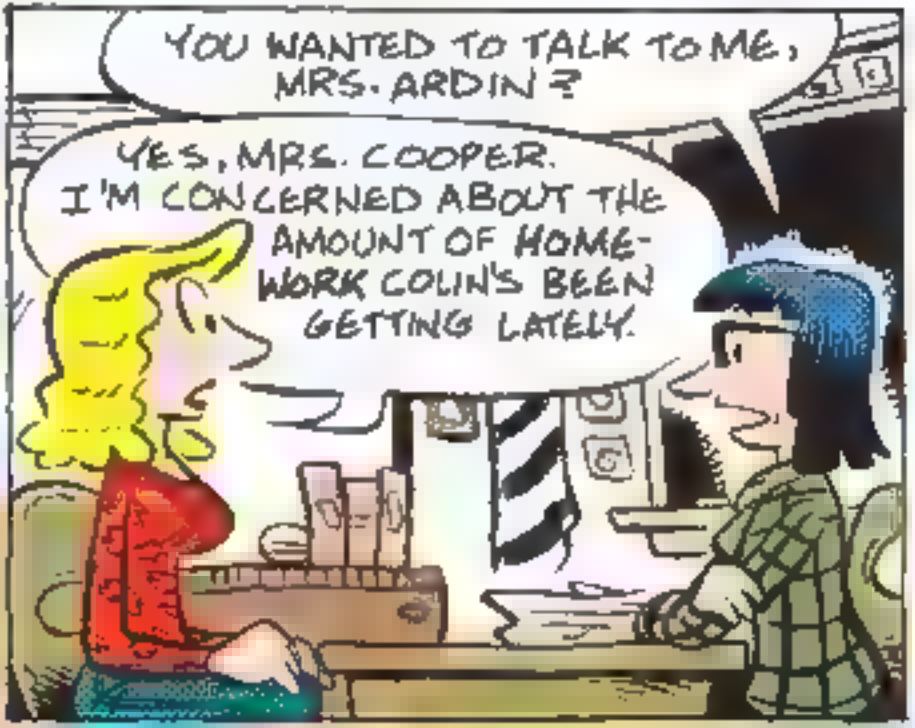
THIS IS ONE I WROTE ON MY WAY TO WORK.
AT THE ENTRANCE RAMP BY 6 A.M. CARS BACKED UP FOR MILES BY THEN!
HEAR NPR TWICE BEFORE YOU EVEN GET TO DRIVE 100 FEET ON I-25!
I-25! I-25! I HATE DRIVIN' ON I-25!
I'D RATHER EAT PAINT, AND THAT'S NO JIVE THAN SPEND ANOTHER MORNING ON I-25
TRY CHANGIN' LANES TRY TAKIN' CUTS DRIVE ON THE SHOULDER IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE GUTS...
BUT FILL YOUR TANK, CUZ' NO MATTER HOW YOU STRIVE YOU'RE GONNA SIT FOR HOURS ON I-25!
I-25! I-25!! I HATE DRIVIN' ON I-25!
WHAT'S THE POINT OF BEIN' ALIVE IF YOU SPEND HALF THE TIME ON I-25?
PING!
I SAY WE STICK TO COVERS.
Y'KNOW, IT COULD BE A CROWD PLEASER. AT LEAST TILL THEY FINISH THE CONSTRUCTION.
MIDLIFE CRISIS

YOU'RE RIGHT, ABBY-- COLIN DOES SEEM TO BE BRINGING HOME AN AWFUL LOT OF HOMEWORK.
I MEAN, I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH A THIRD-GRADER DOING 20 MINUTES OR SO EACH DAY...
9.15
...BUT I KNOW I DIDN'T PULL AN ALL-NIGHTER TILL I WAS IN COLLEGE!
MOM, DAD-- CAN I TRY COFFEE?


THE FACT THAT COLIN HAS SO MUCH HOMEWORK IS BAD ENOUGH. BUT A LOT OF IT DOESN'T SEEM VERY WORTHWHILE!

THIS LOOKS LIKE IT'S ABOUT NOTHING MORE THAN TEACHING KIDS TO TAKE STANDARDIZED TESTS!
WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?


"EXERCISE SHEET 5: PRACTICE FILLING IN THE CIRCLES WITH A #2 PENCIL"...
3.16



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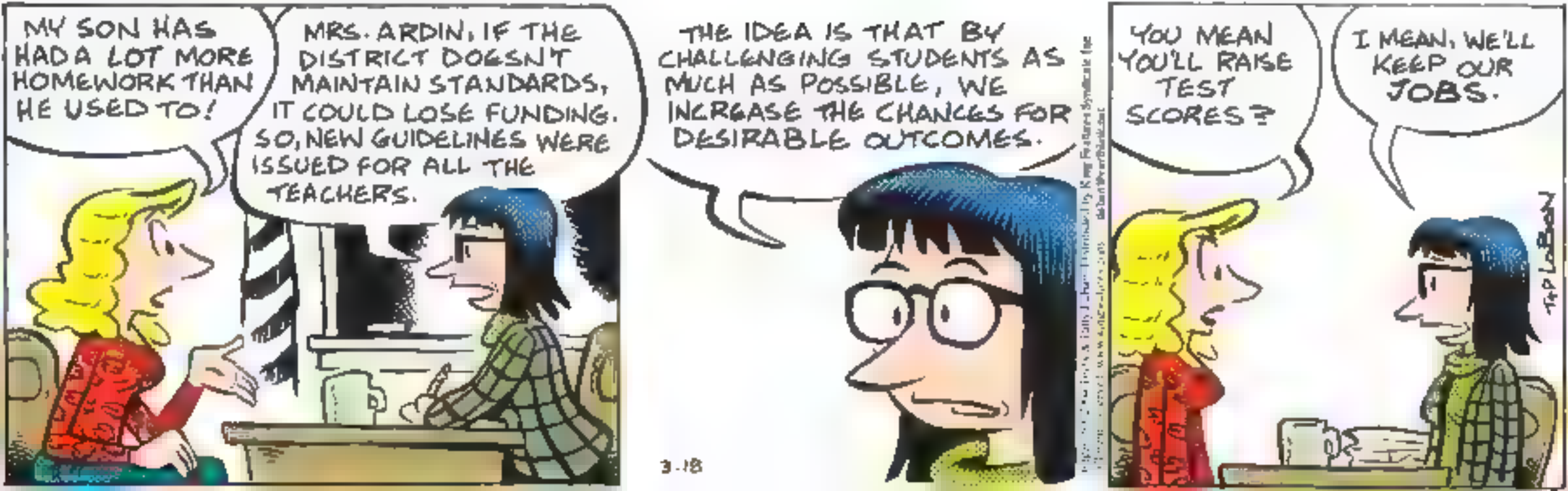
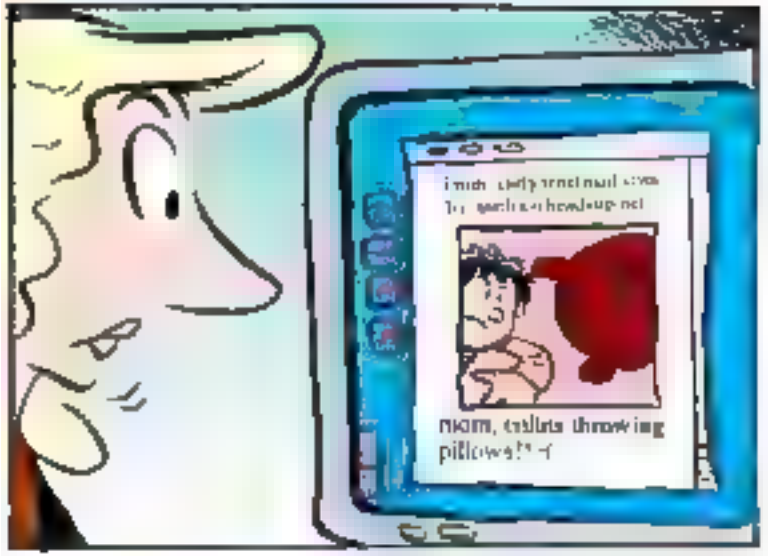

MY SON HAS HAD A LOT MORE HOMEWORK THAN HE USED TO!
MRS. ARDIN, IF THE DISTRICT DOESN'T MAINTAIN STANDARDS, IT COULD LOSE FUNDING. SO, NEW GUIDELINES WERE ISSUED FOR ALL THE TEACHERS.
THE IDEA IS THAT BY CHALLENGING STUDENTS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, WE INCREASE THE CHANCES FOR DESIRABLE OUTCOMES.
YOU MEAN YOU'LL RAISE TEST SCORES?
I MEAN, WE'LL KEEP OUR JOBS.
3-18
T&P LaBan

I'D RATHER NOT GIVE THE KIDS SO MUCH HOMEWORK, MRS. ARDIN. BUT THE DISTRICT'S TRYING TO MEET NEW FEDERAL STANDARDS--THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO!
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
CERTAINLY! ORGANIZE OTHER PARENTS TO PROTEST THE SITUATION! MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD FROM THE DISTRICT TO THE STATE CAPITAL TO WASHINGTON!
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO DO THAT!
WELL, THEN--HIRE A TUTOR.

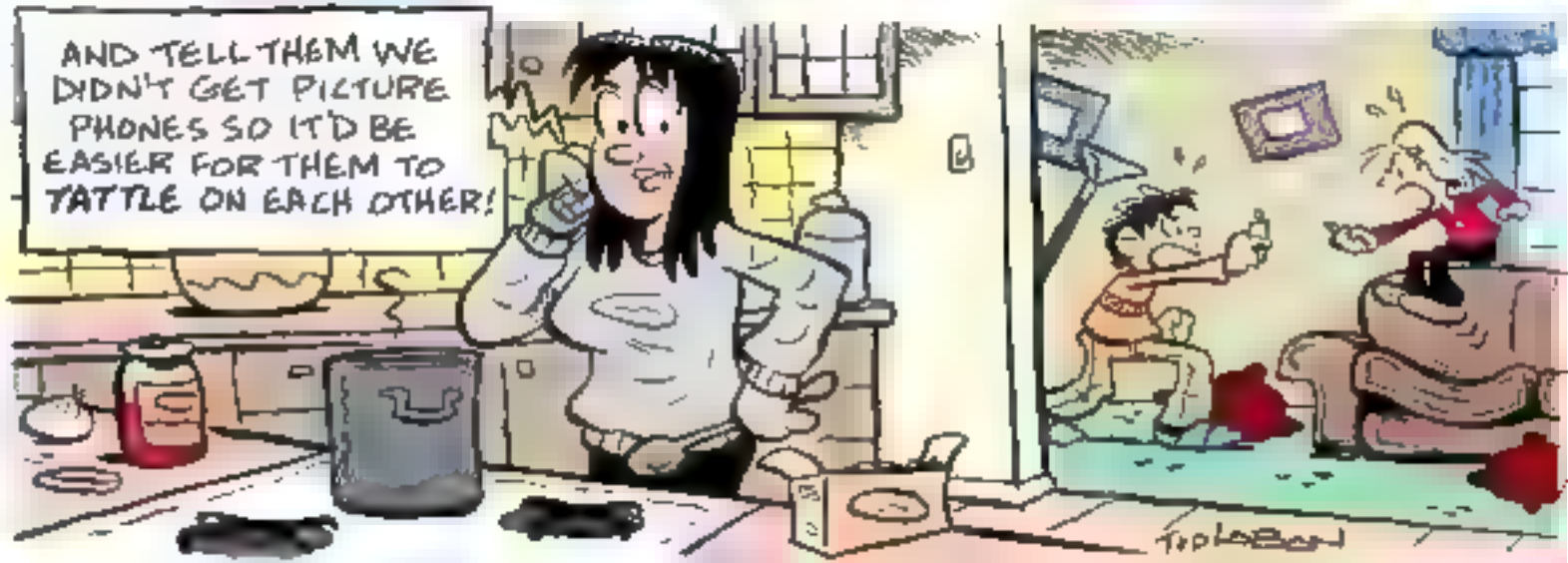
I TALKED TO COLIN'S TEACHER ABOUT ALL THE HOMEWORK HE'S BEEN GETTING.
THERE'S NOTHING SHE CAN DO--IT'S MANDATED BY THE DISTRICT!
THEY JUST WANT TO KEEP TEST SCORES UP SO THEY DON'T LOSE FUNDING! THEY COULDN'T CARE LESS IF THE KIDS ACTUALLY LEARN ANYTHING!
8.20
ACTUALLY, I THINK COLIN'S LEARNING A LOT.
THE "SYSTEM" STINKS!

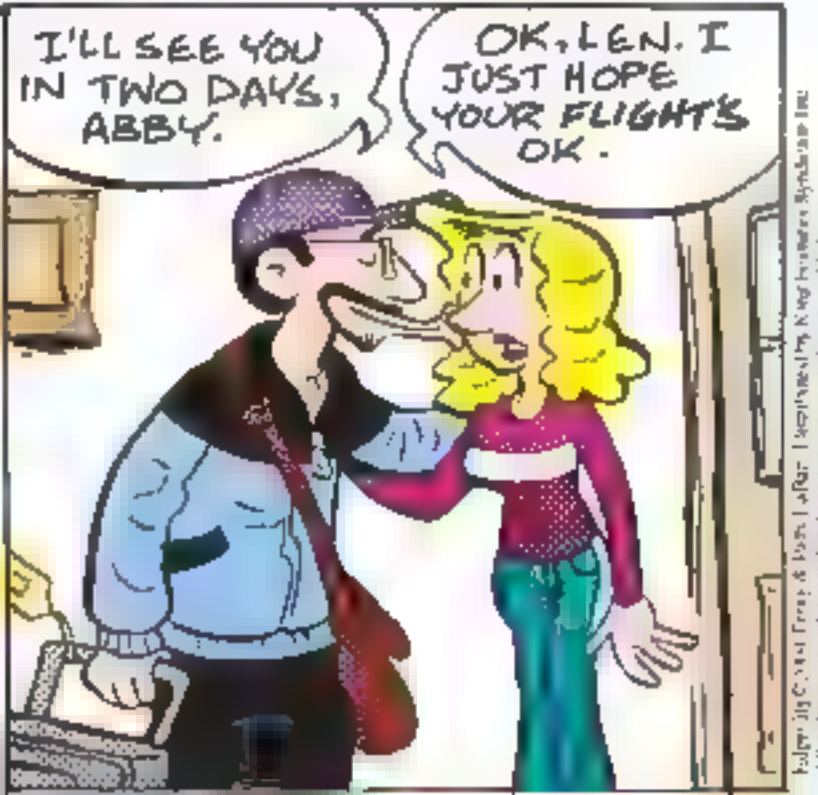

mom, collin's throwing pillows!!

mom! carlys making faces!!!

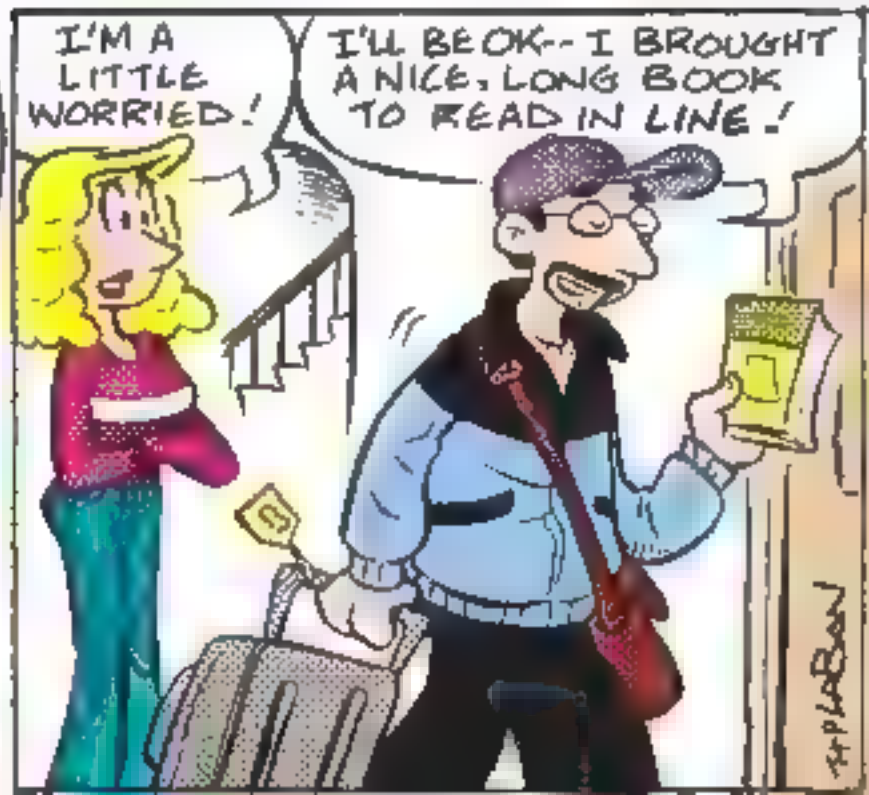
mooom!!! collin hitting!!!

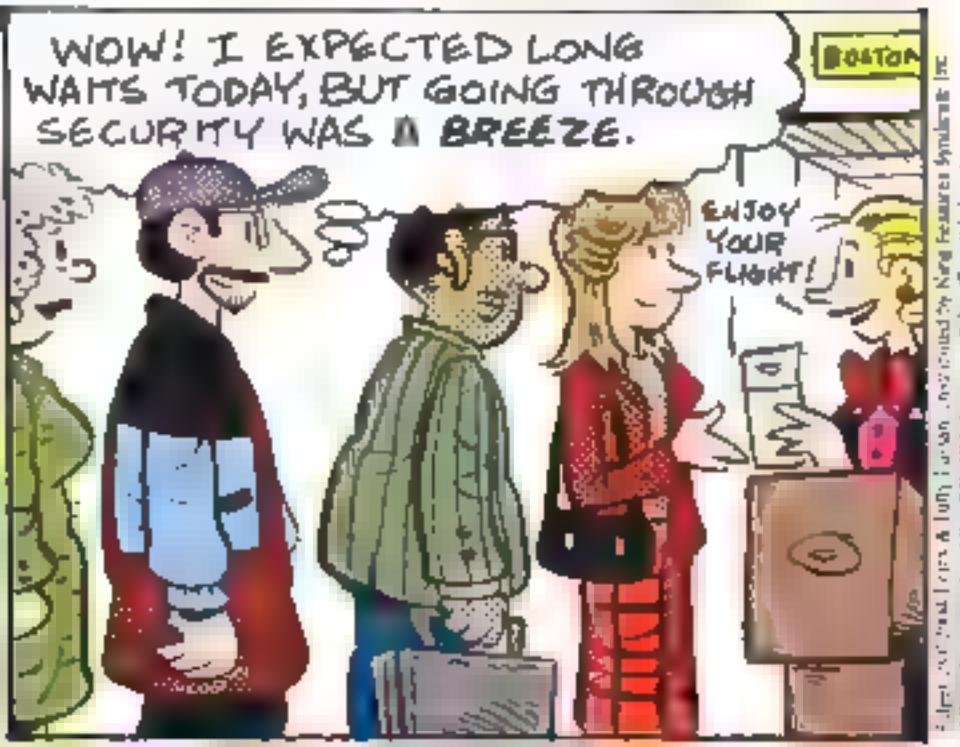
ROCIO, IT'S ABBY! I THINK THE KIDS NEED TO GO TO THEIR ROOMS!

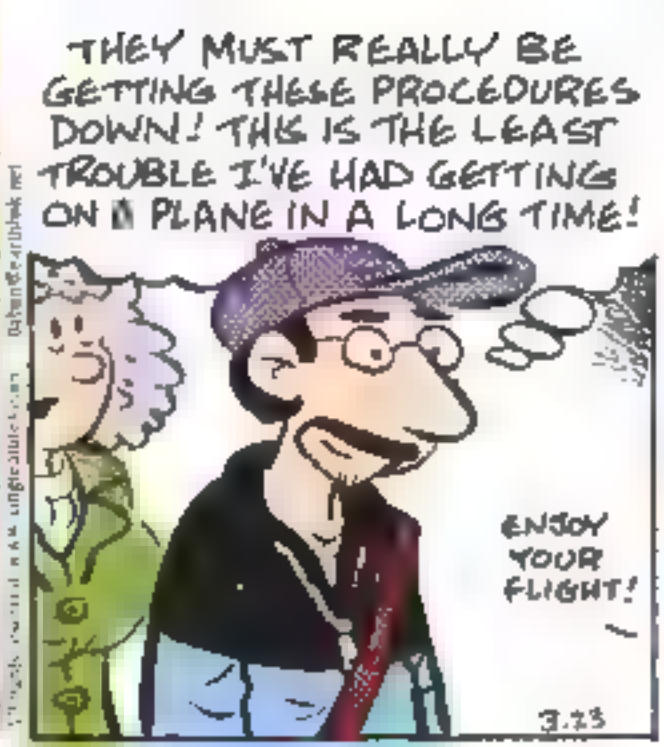

AND TELL THEM WE DIDN'T GET PICTURE PHONES SO IT'D BE EASIER FOR THEM TO TATTLE ON EACH OTHER!


I'LL SEE YOU IN TWO DAYS, ABBY.
OK, LEN. I JUST HOPE YOUR FLIGHT'S OK.

IT'LL BE FINE! THE WEATHER'S BEAUTIFUL TODAY.
WELL, I JUST HEARD ON THE RADIO THAT THERE'S A CODE ORANGE TERROR ALERT!
3.22


I'M A LITTLE WORRIED!
I'LL BE OK-- I BROUGHT A NICE, LONG BOOK TO READ IN LINE!
HALBAN


WOW! I EXPECTED LONG WAITS TODAY, BUT GOING THROUGH SECURITY WAS A BREEZE.
BOSTON
ENJOY YOUR FLIGHT!


THEY MUST REALLY BE GETTING THESE PROCEDURES DOWN! THIS IS THE LEAST TROUBLE I'VE HAD GETTING ON A PLANE IN A LONG TIME!
ENJOY YOUR FLIGHT!
3.23

UH-OH!
LEN ARDIN?
CAN YOU COME WITH US, PLEASE?
KIPLABAN

MR. ARDIN? COULD YOU COME WITH US, PLEASE?
BUT... I'LL MISS MY PLANE!
LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S A MISTAKE!
CALM DOWN, SIR! THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
WE JUST WANT TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS.
3.24

SO, MR. ARDIN... YOU'VE LIVED AT YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS FOR 10 YEARS?
AND YOU'VE BEEN A U.S. CITIZEN YOUR WHOLE LIFE?
YES! ABSOLUTELY!
TRIPLABOON

LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU PULLED ME OFF MY FLIGHT, BUT IF MY NAME'S ON SOME KIND OF "WATCH LIST," IT'S A MISTAKE!

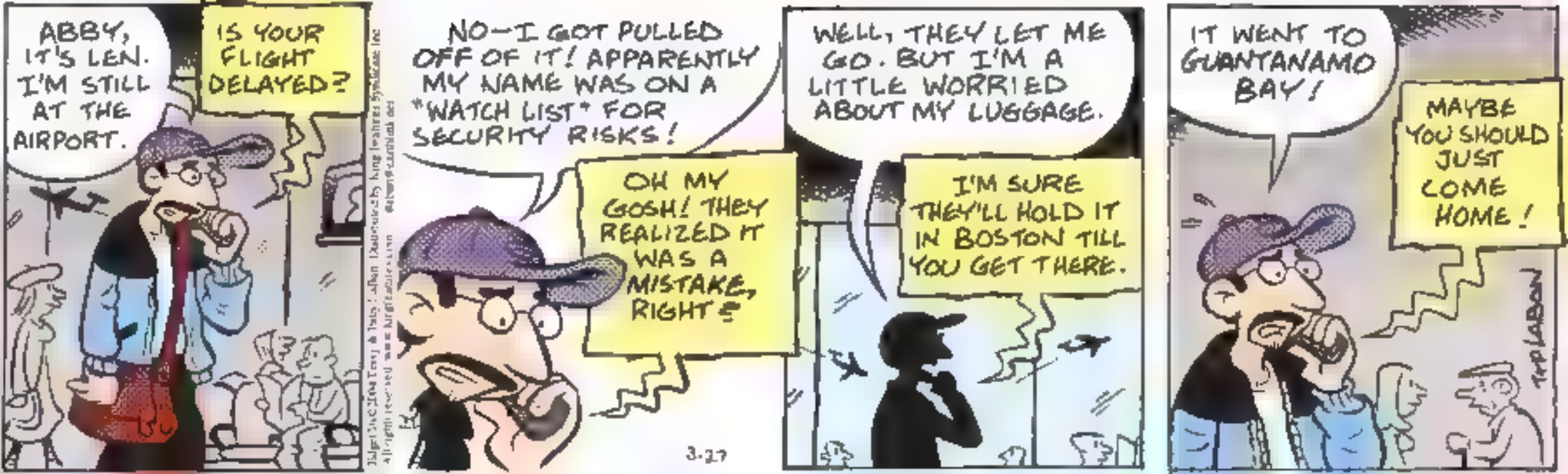
CARE TO ELABORATE ON THAT, MR. ARDIN?
OR SHOULD WE SAY "MR. AL-ARDIHN"?
3-25

GOOD NEWS, MR. ARDIN-- YOUR INFORMATION CHECKED OUT. YOU'RE FREE TO FLY.
THANKS, I GUESS.

I'D SURE LIKE TO KNOW HOW MY NAME GOT ON YOUR LIST, THOUGH.
APPARENTLY, YOU ENGAGED IN SOME SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES.
3-26

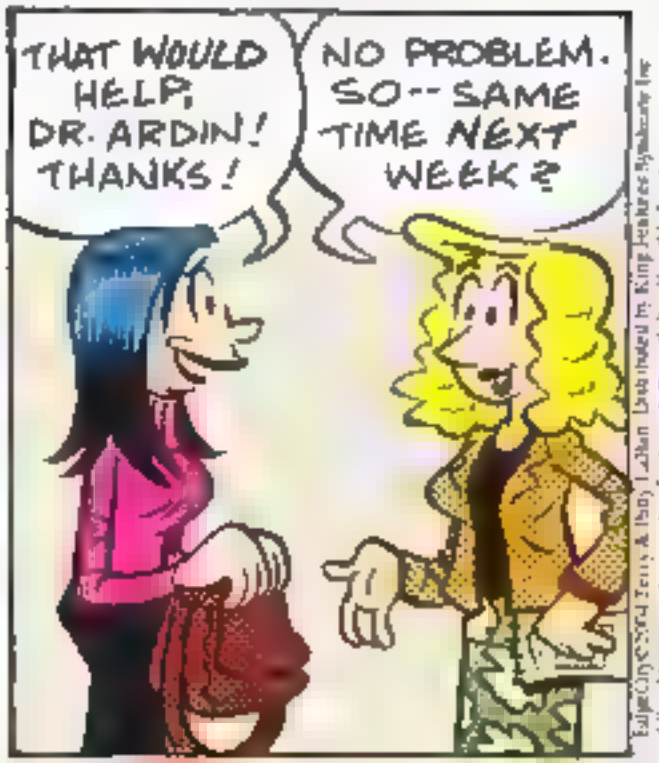
THAT'S GOTTA BE A MISTAKE! I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING THAT'D EVEN REMOTELY THREATEN THE GOVERNMENT!
WELL, AS YOU KNOW, THEY'RE CASTING THEIR NETS A LITTLE WIDER RIGHT NOW.

OFF THE RECORD, YOU MAY WANT TO STAY OUT OF YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY FOR A WHILE.

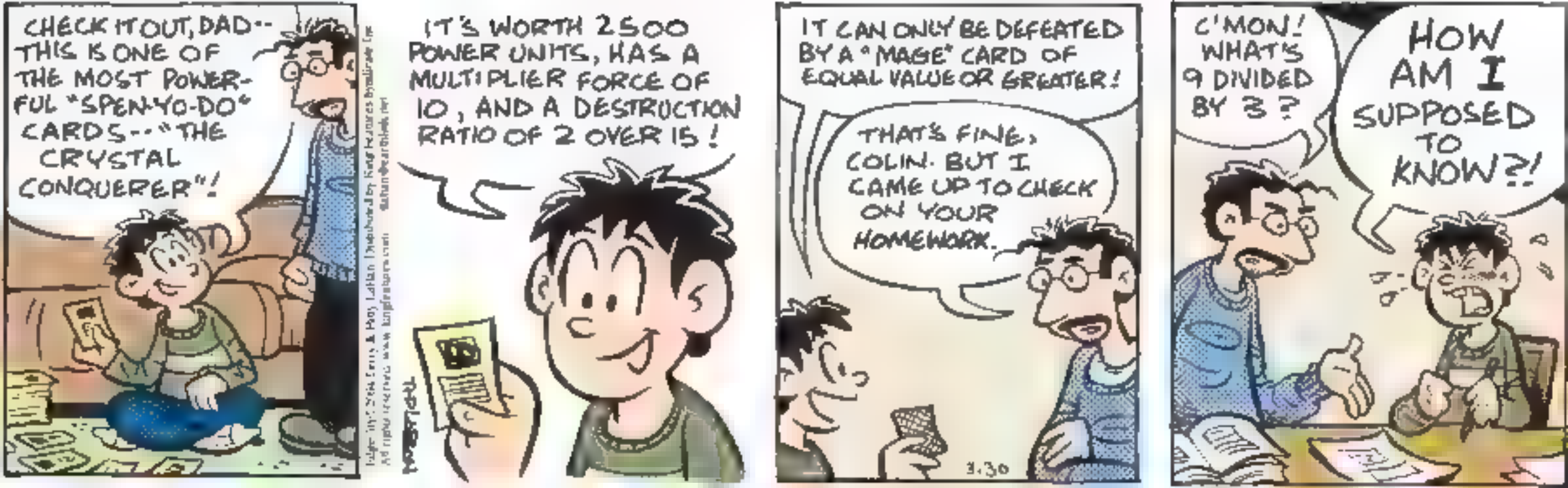

ABBY, IT'S LEN. I'M STILL AT THE AIRPORT.
IS YOUR FLIGHT DELAYED?
NO—I GOT PULLED OFF OF IT! APPARENTLY MY NAME WAS ON A "WATCH LIST" FOR SECURITY RISKS!
OH MY GOSH! THEY REALIZED IT WAS A MISTAKE, RIGHT?
WELL, THEY LET ME GO. BUT I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT MY LUGGAGE.
I'M SURE THEY'LL HOLD IT IN BOSTON TILL YOU GET THERE.
IT WENT TO GUANTANAMO BAY!
MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST COME HOME!
TOM LABON
3-27

SUMMER CAMP FAIR 2004
INTERESTED IN SCIENCE? CAMP EINSTEIN OFFERS ASTRONOMY, BIOLOGY, ROCKETRY AND COMPUTER SCIENCE-- ALL IN STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES ON A PRIVATE LAKE!
CAMP EINSTEIN
INTERESTED IN SPORTS? CAMP KOMPETE OFFERS BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, TENNIS, SOCCER AND LACROSSE--AND ALL OUR COUNSELORS ARE PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES!
INTERESTED IN ART? CAMP WANNAMAKE OFFERS VISUAL ART, PERFORMANCE ART, MUSIC AND TV PRODUCTION, ALL IN A GORGEOUS MOUNTAIN SETTING!
ALL THESE CAMPS SOUND AMAZING, LEN!
YEAH--AND THEY ALL COST A FORTUNE! HOW ARE WE GOING TO AFFORD THIS?
INTERESTED IN TAKING OUT A SECOND MORTGAGE ON YOUR HOME?
Keene Financial Services

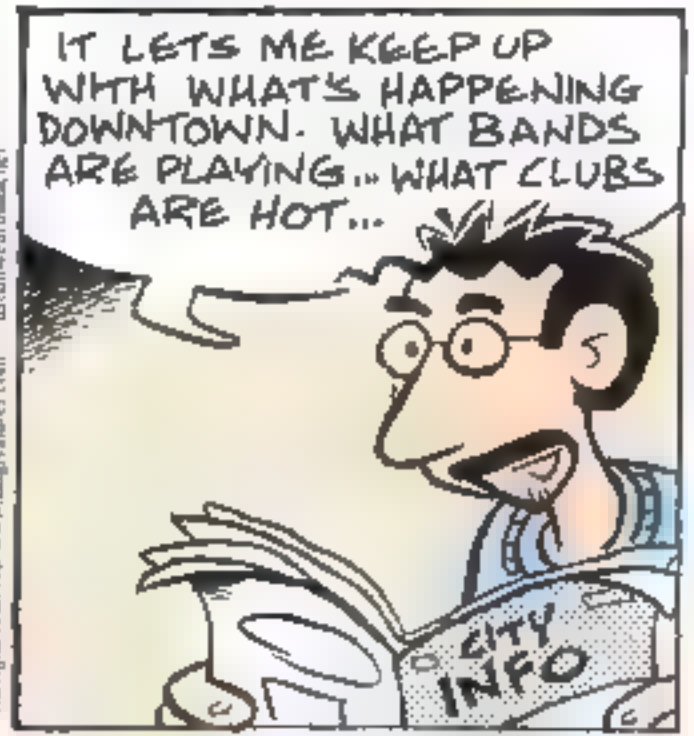
I MIGHT HAVE TO QUIT THERAPY, DR. ARDIN. WE'RE HAVING SOME MONEY PROBLEMS.
I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT, ELLIE. IF IT'D HELP, I'M WILLING TO LOWER MY FEE.

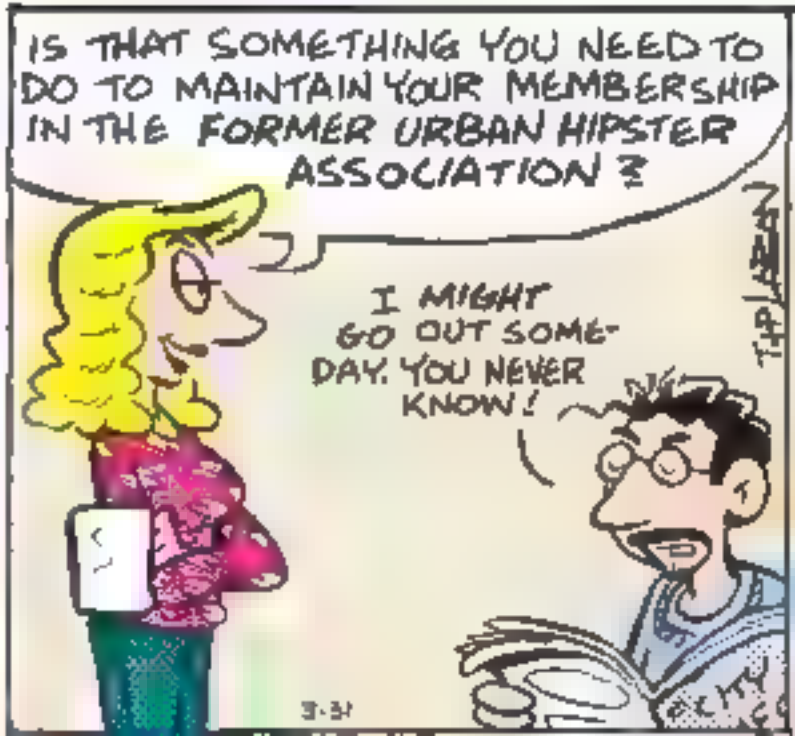

THAT WOULD HELP, DR. ARDIN! THANKS!
NO PROBLEM. SO--SAME TIME NEXT WEEK?

IT'LL HAVE TO BE THE WEEK AFTER--I'M GOING ON VACATION TO MEXICO.
9.19


CHECK IT OUT, DAD-- THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL "SPEN-YO-DO" CARDS--"THE CRYSTAL CONQUERER"!
IT'S WORTH 2500 POWER UNITS, HAS A MULTIPLIER FORCE OF 10, AND A DESTRUCTION RATIO OF 2 OVER 15!
IT CAN ONLY BE DEFEATED BY A "MAGE" CARD OF EQUAL VALUE OR GREATER!
THAT'S FINE, COLIN. BUT I CAME UP TO CHECK ON YOUR HOMEWORK.
3.30
C'MON! WHAT'S 9 DIVIDED BY 3?
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?!

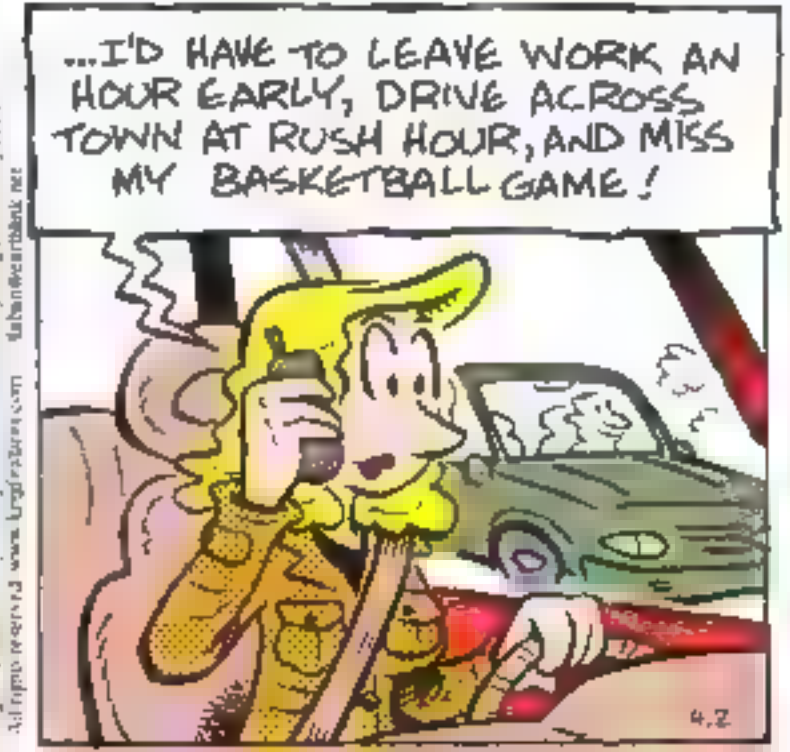
WHAT'S THAT, LEN?
THE LOCAL FREE WEEKLY.
CITY INFO


IT LETS ME KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING DOWNTOWN. WHAT BANDS ARE PLAYING... WHAT CLUBS ARE HOT...
CITY INFO

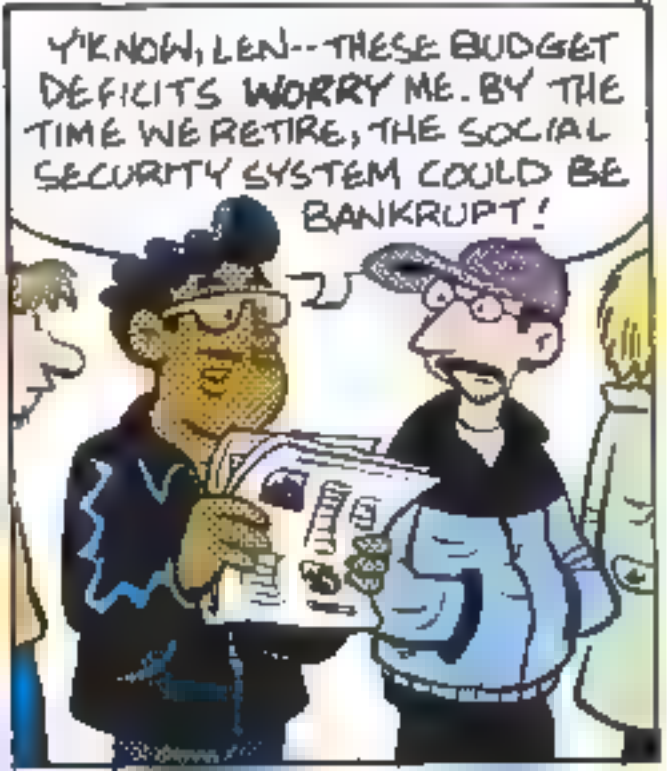

IS THAT SOMETHING YOU NEED TO DO TO MAINTAIN YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE FORMER URBAN HIPSTER ASSOCIATION?
I MIGHT GO OUT SOMEDAY. YOU NEVER KNOW!
3-31

OH MY GOSH!
WHAT IS IT, RAJIV?
OUR COMPANY'S HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM JUST WENT UP 50%!
YOU'RE KIDDING!
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! APRIL FOOL, RIGHT? HA HA... YOU REALLY HAD ME GOING THERE!
TAPLARON
WOW! IT'S APRIL 1st ALREADY?
OH MY GOSH!!

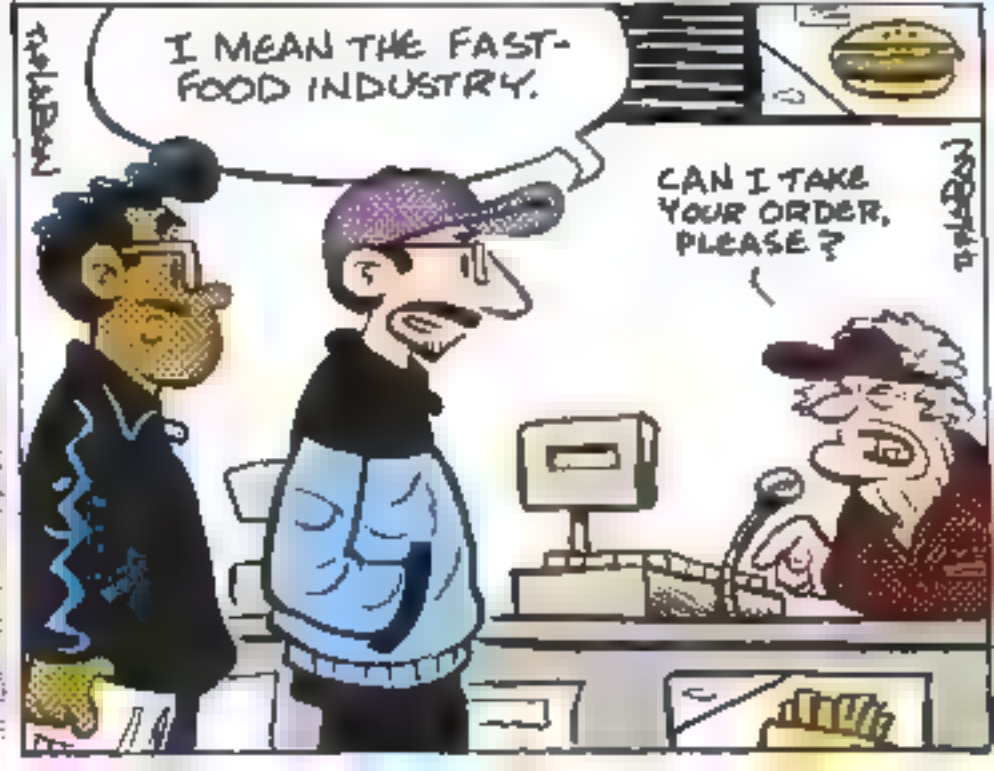
LEN, IT'S ABBY. I SCHEDULED A CLIENT AT 5:00. CAN YOU PICK UP CARLY AT HER MOVEMENT CLASS?
AW, C'MON, HONEY...


...I'D HAVE TO LEAVE WORK AN HOUR EARLY, DRIVE ACROSS TOWN AT RUSH HOUR, AND MISS MY BASKETBALL GAME!
4.2

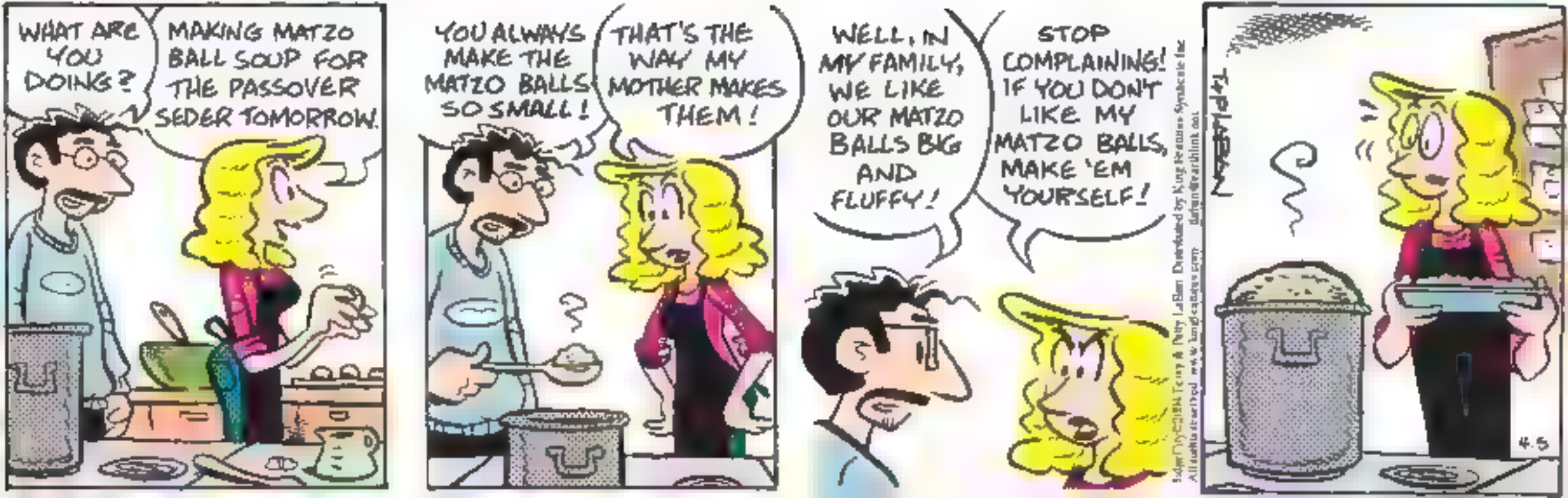
SO, THAT'S A "YES"?
TIPLABAN

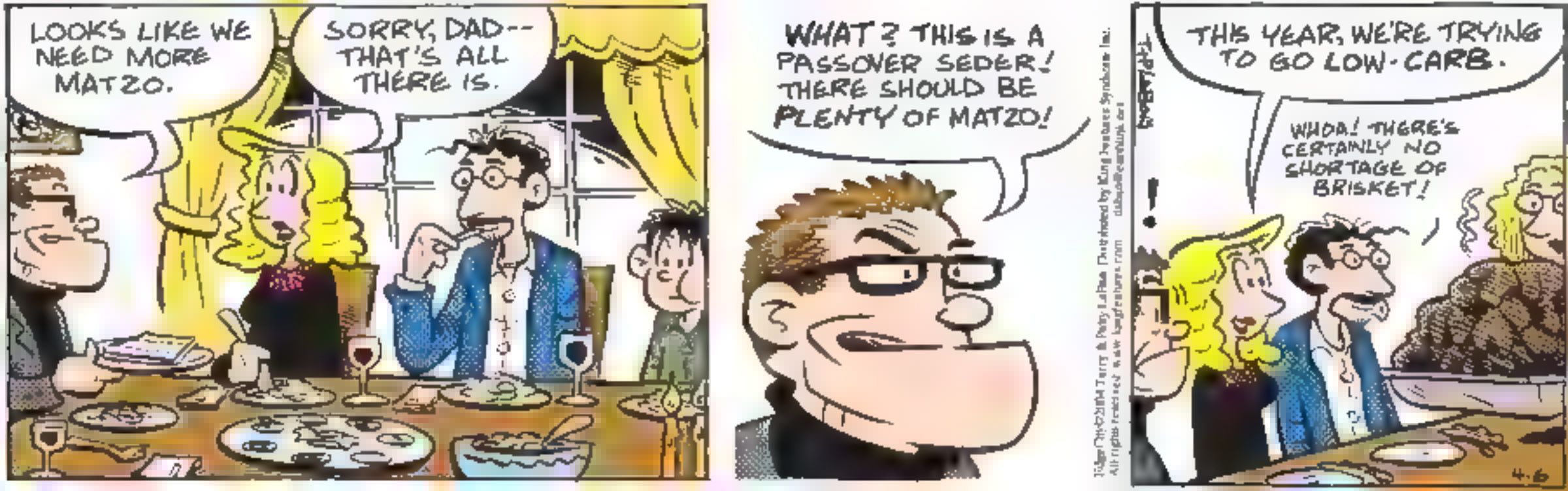

Y'KNOW, LEN--THESE BUDGET DEFICITS WORRY ME. BY THE TIME WE RETIRE, THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM COULD BE BANKRUPT!

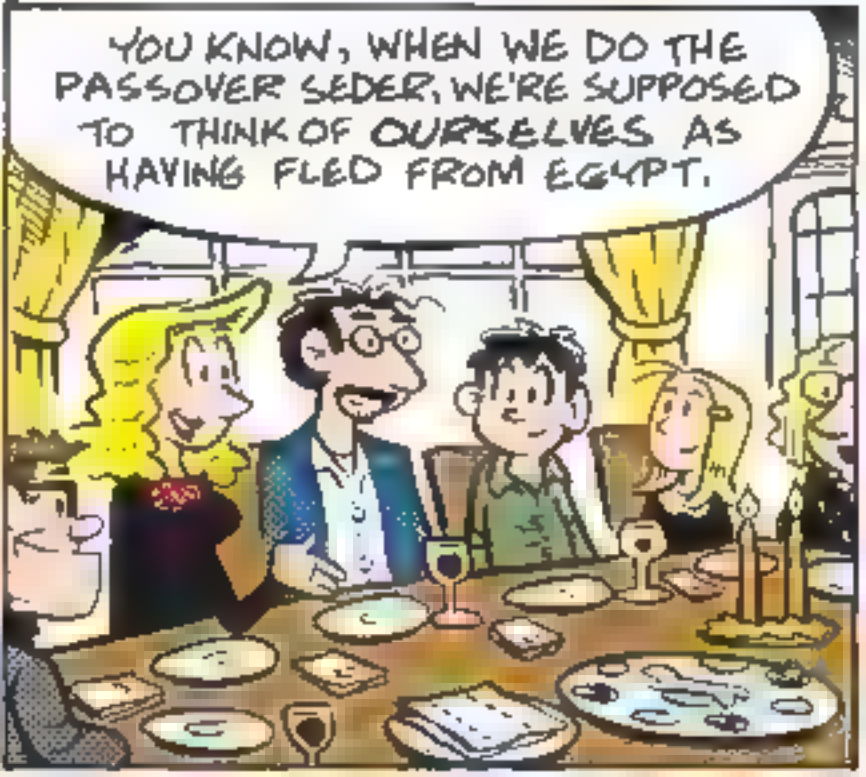
WELL, WE CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR.
YOU MEAN STOCKS, BONDS AND SAVINGS ACCOUNTS?
4.3


I MEAN THE FAST-FOOD INDUSTRY.
CAN I TAKE YOUR ORDER, PLEASE?

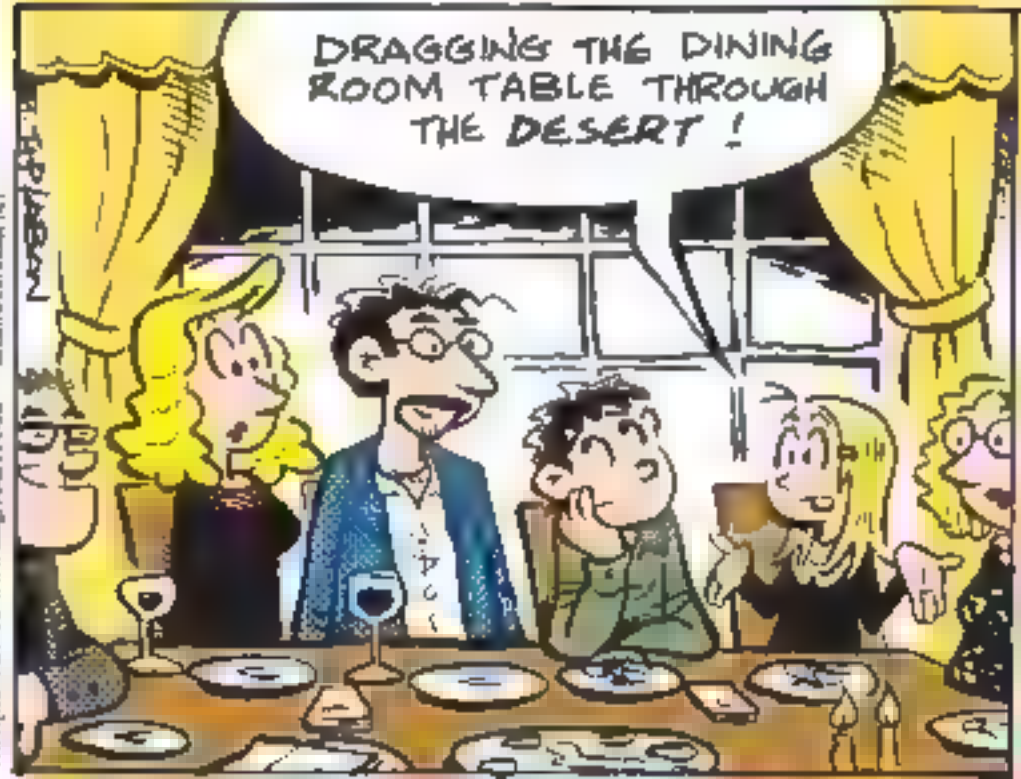
AISLE 4
"LOUISIANA GATORCIDE"... "HELLO HADES"... "SPIKE'S TOUGH-GUYS-ONLY SURPRISE"...
"TIGER-BY-THE-TAIL"... "SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST"... "CHEST HAIR OR BUST"...
I GUESS I'LL TRY THIS ONE.
$4.50, PLEASE.
"DANGER DAN'S TWO-FISTED, BLOOD-SOAKED BARROOM BRAWL"?!
I LIVE VICARIOUSLY THROUGH MY HOT SAUCE.

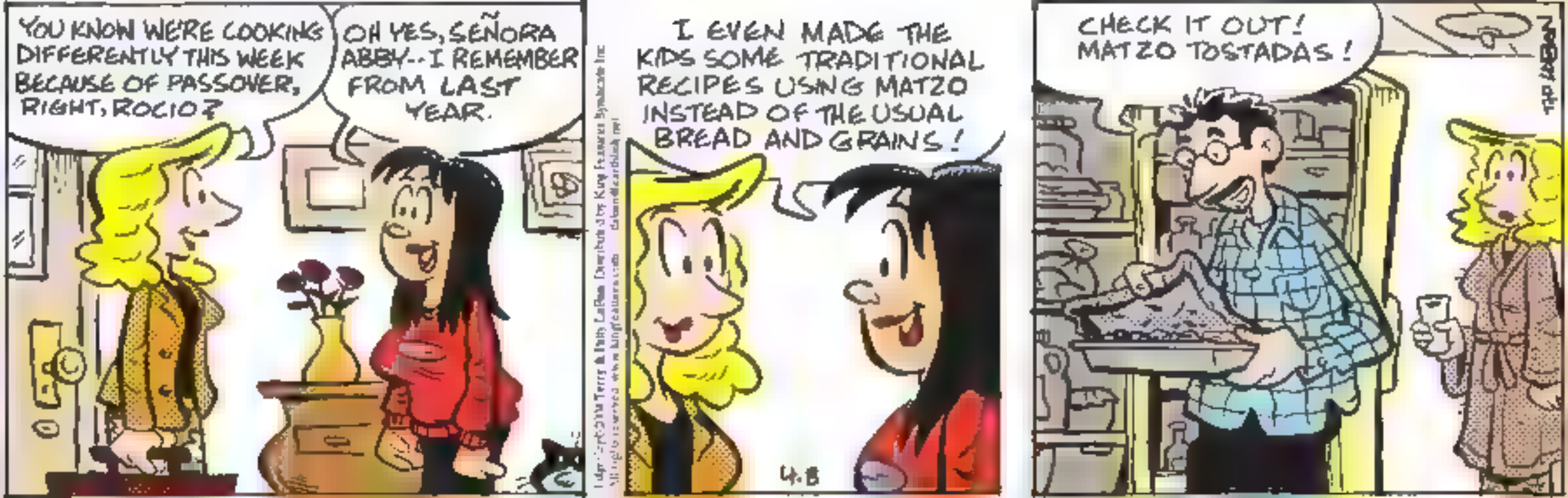

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MAKING MATZO BALL SOUP FOR THE PASSOVER SEDER TOMORROW.
YOU ALWAYS MAKE THE MATZO BALLS SO SMALL!
THAT'S THE WAY MY MOTHER MAKES THEM!
WELL, IN MY FAMILY, WE LIKE OUR MATZO BALLS BIG AND FLUFFY!
STOP COMPLAINING! IF YOU DON'T LIKE MY MATZO BALLS, MAKE 'EM YOURSELF!
4-5

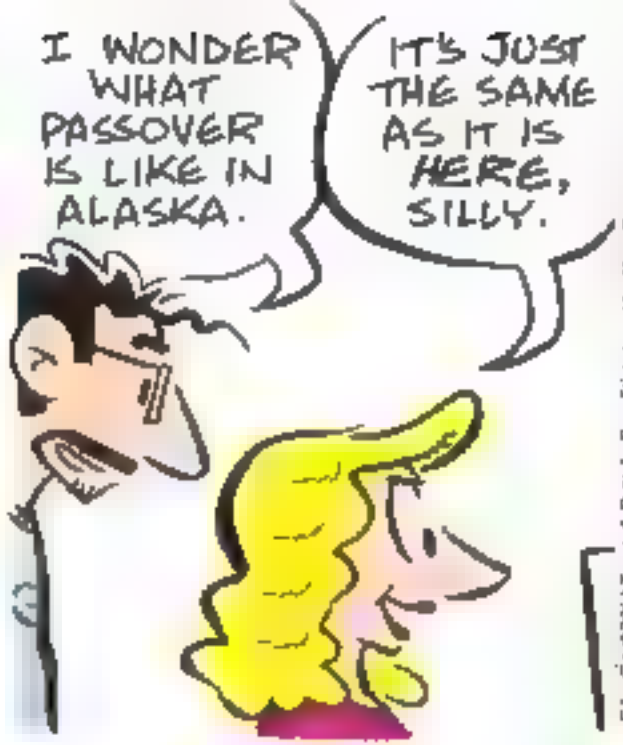

LOOKS LIKE WE NEED MORE MATZO.
SORRY, DAD-- THAT'S ALL THERE IS.
WHAT? THIS IS A PASSOVER SEDER! THERE SHOULD BE PLENTY OF MATZO!
THIS YEAR, WE'RE TRYING TO GO LOW-CARB.
WHOA! THERE'S CERTAINLY NO SHORTAGE OF BRISKET!
4-6


YOU KNOW, WHEN WE DO THE PASSOVER SEDER, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO THINK OF OURSELVES AS HAVING FLED FROM EGYPT.

IMAGINE WE WERE ON OUR WAY NOW! WHAT WOULD BE THE HARDEST PART?
HMM...
4-7


DRAGGING THE DINING ROOM TABLE THROUGH THE DESERT!


YOU KNOW WE'RE COOKING DIFFERENTLY THIS WEEK BECAUSE OF PASSOVER, RIGHT, ROCIO?
OH YES, SEÑORA ABBY--I REMEMBER FROM LAST YEAR.
I EVEN MADE THE KIDS SOME TRADITIONAL RECIPES USING MATZO INSTEAD OF THE USUAL BREAD AND GRAINS!
4.8
CHECK IT OUT! MATZO TOSTADAS!



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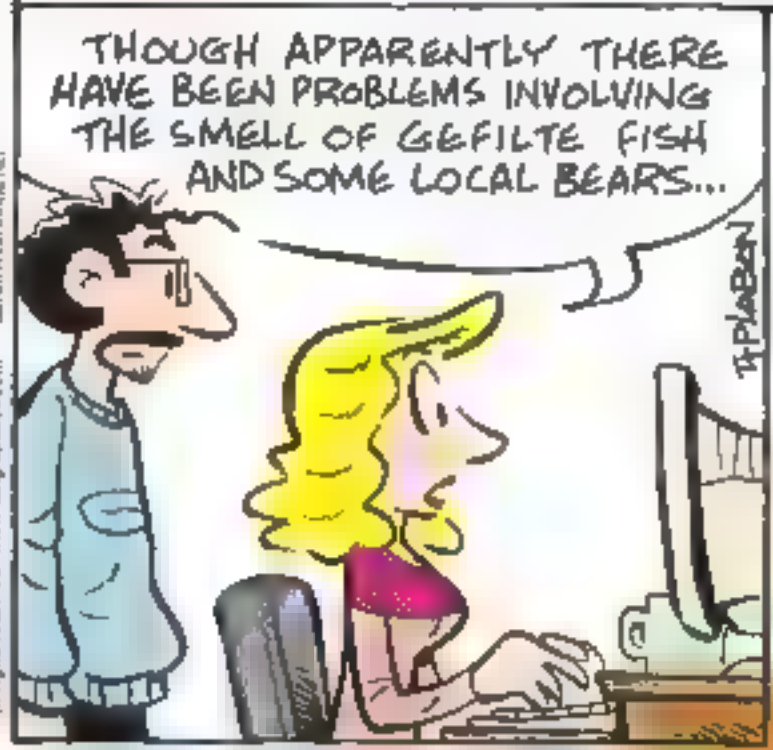
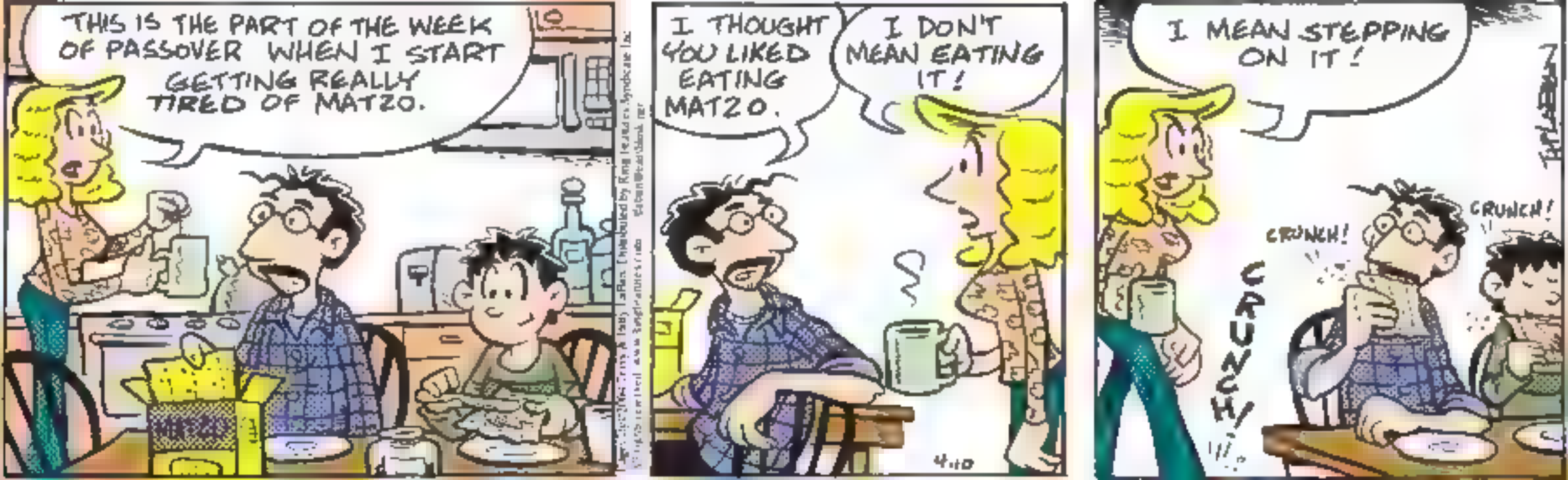
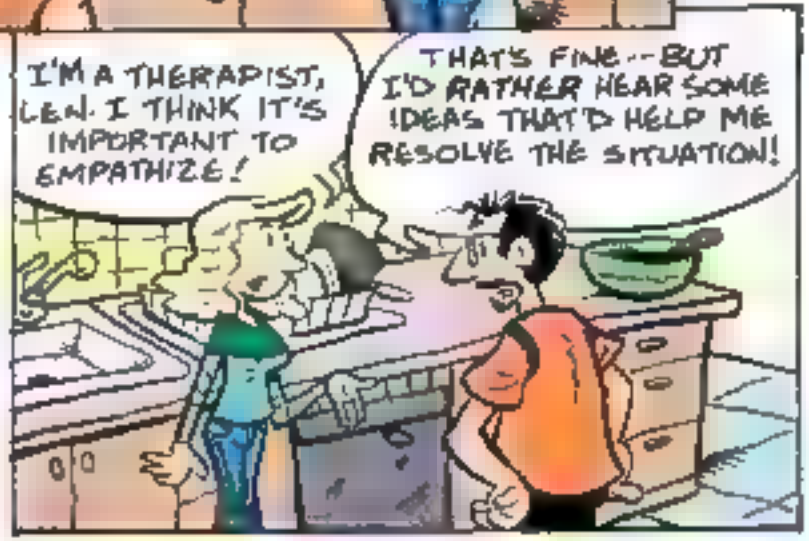


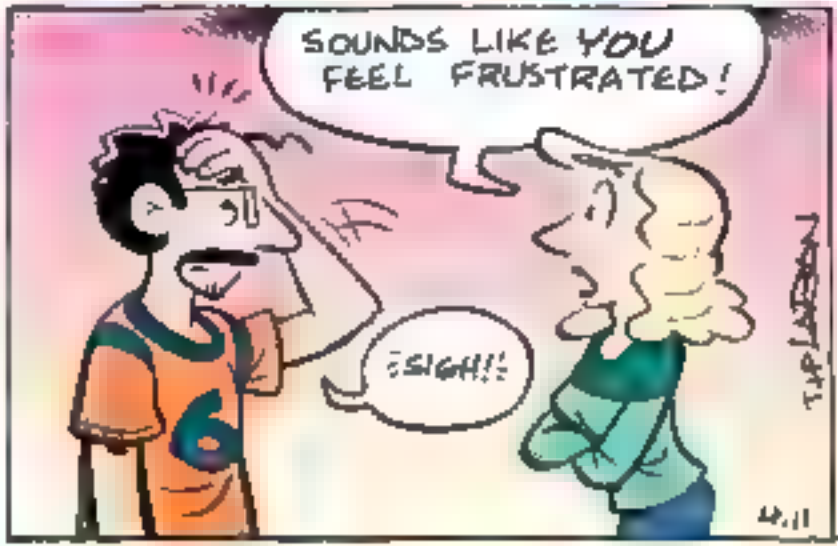

THIS IS THE PART OF THE WEEK OF PASSOVER WHEN I START GETTING REALLY TIRED OF MATZO.
I THOUGHT YOU LIKED EATING MATZO.
I DON'T MEAN EATING IT!
I MEAN STEPPING ON IT!
CRUNCH!
CRUNCH!
CRUNCH!

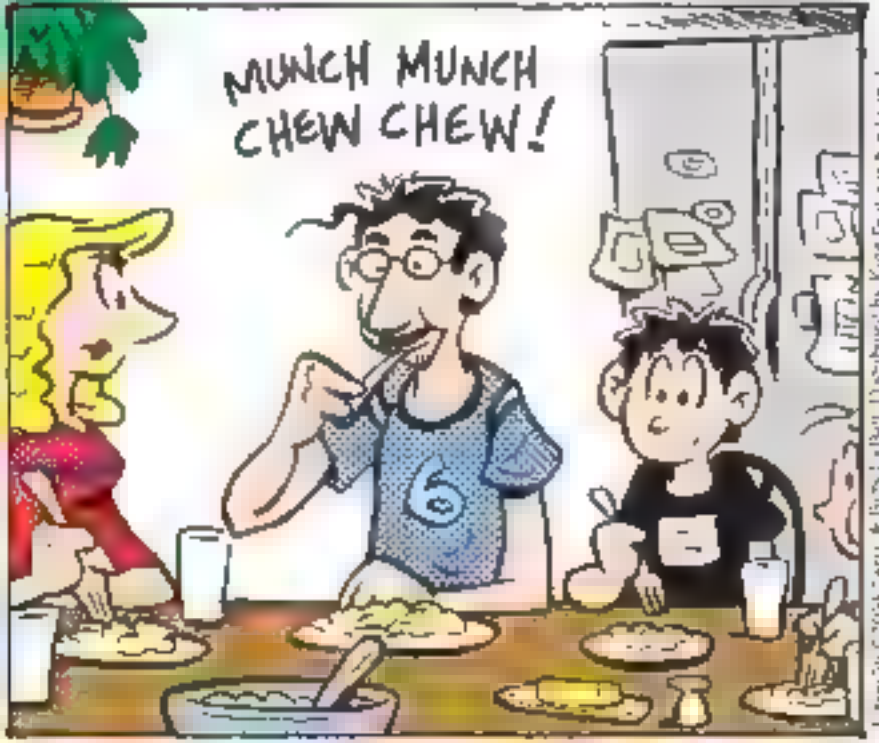
DARN! CARLY'S SOCCER GAME TONIGHT IS GOING TO INTERFERE WITH MY BAND PRACTICE!
APRIL
SOUNDS LIKE YOU FEEL ANNOYED!

I GUESS THAT'S TRUE. BUT IT ISN'T THE POINT.
I'M JUST NAMING YOUR FEELING SO THAT YOU KNOW I'M REALLY HEARING YOU.

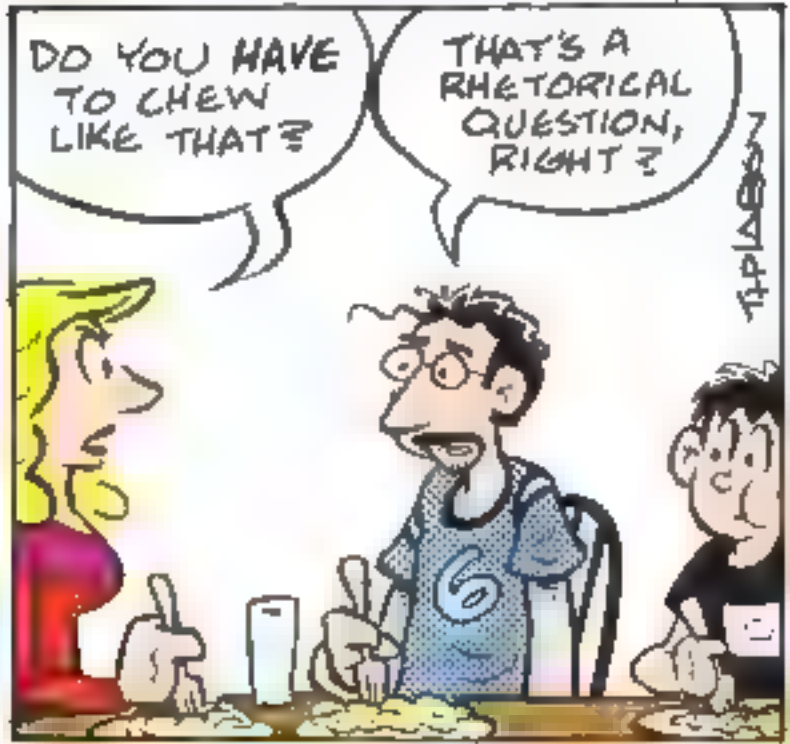
I KNOW-- BUT NAMING MY FEELING DOESN'T HELP ME FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO.

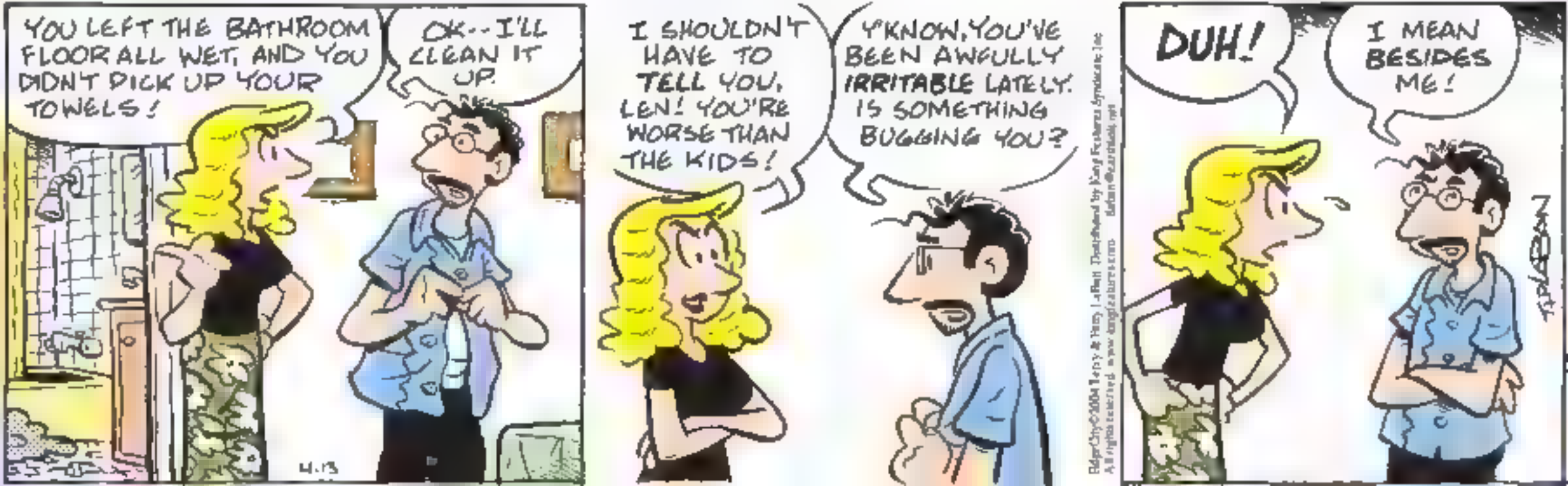

I'M A THERAPIST, LEN. I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO EMPATHIZE!
THAT'S FINE--BUT I'D RATHER HEAR SOME IDEAS THAT'D HELP ME RESOLVE THE SITUATION!

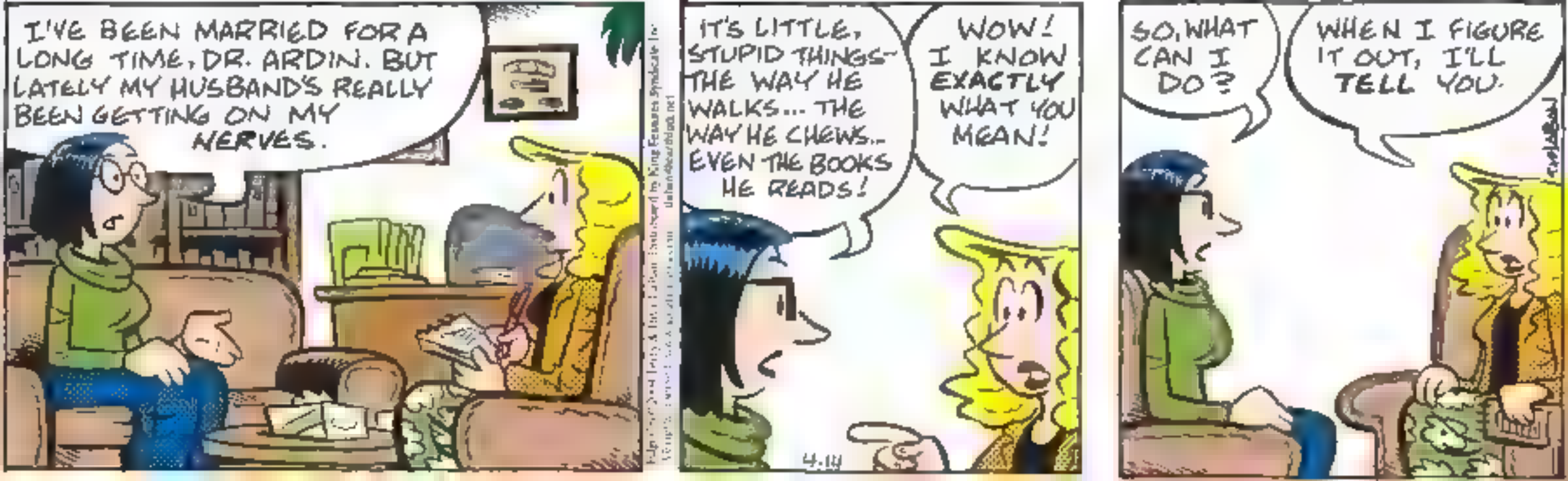

SOUNDS LIKE YOU FEEL FRUSTRATED!
SIGH!!
T.P. LARSON
4.11

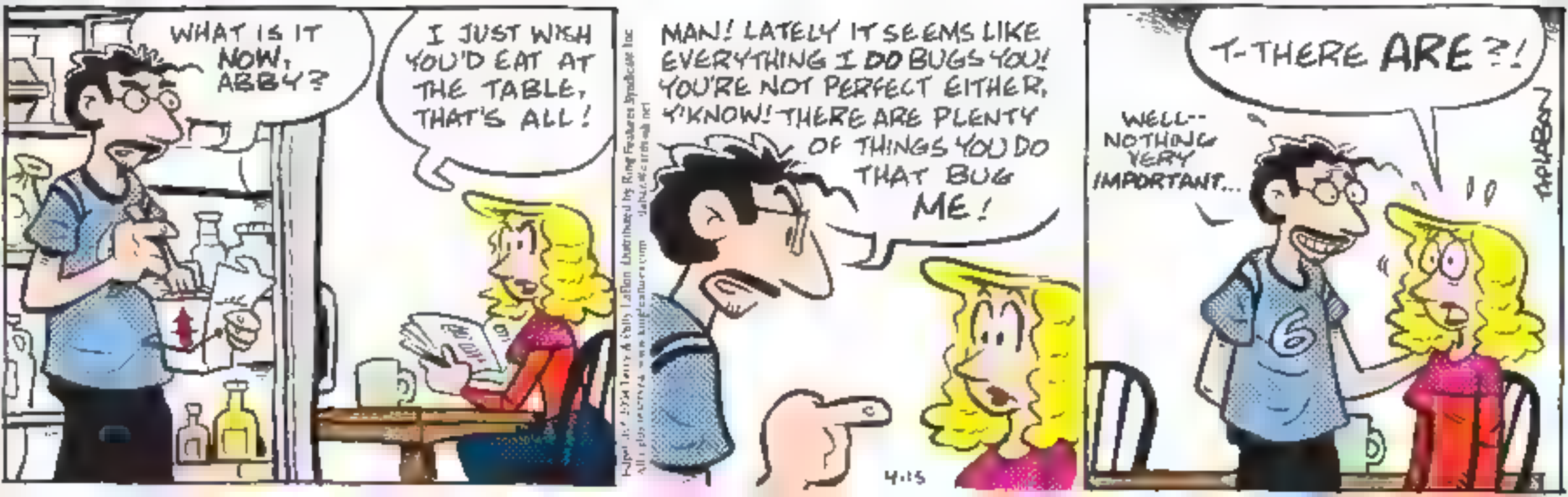

MUNCH MUNCH CHEW CHEW!

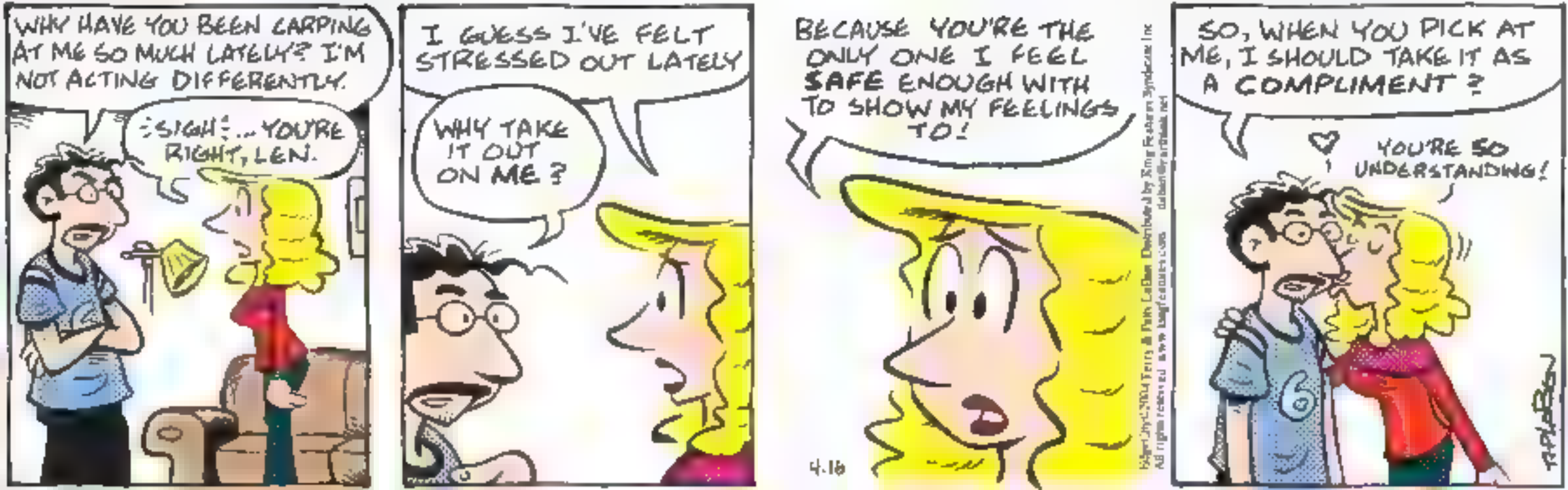
MUNCH CHEW CHEW MUNCH!

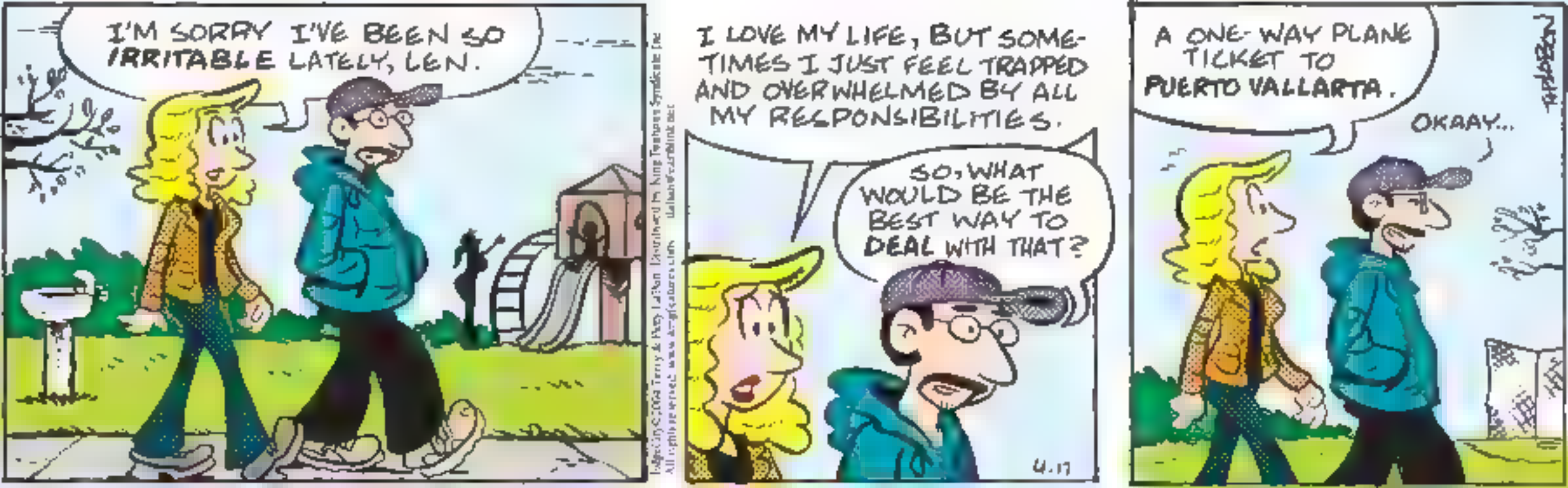

DO YOU HAVE TO CHEW LIKE THAT?
THAT'S A RHETORICAL QUESTION, RIGHT?

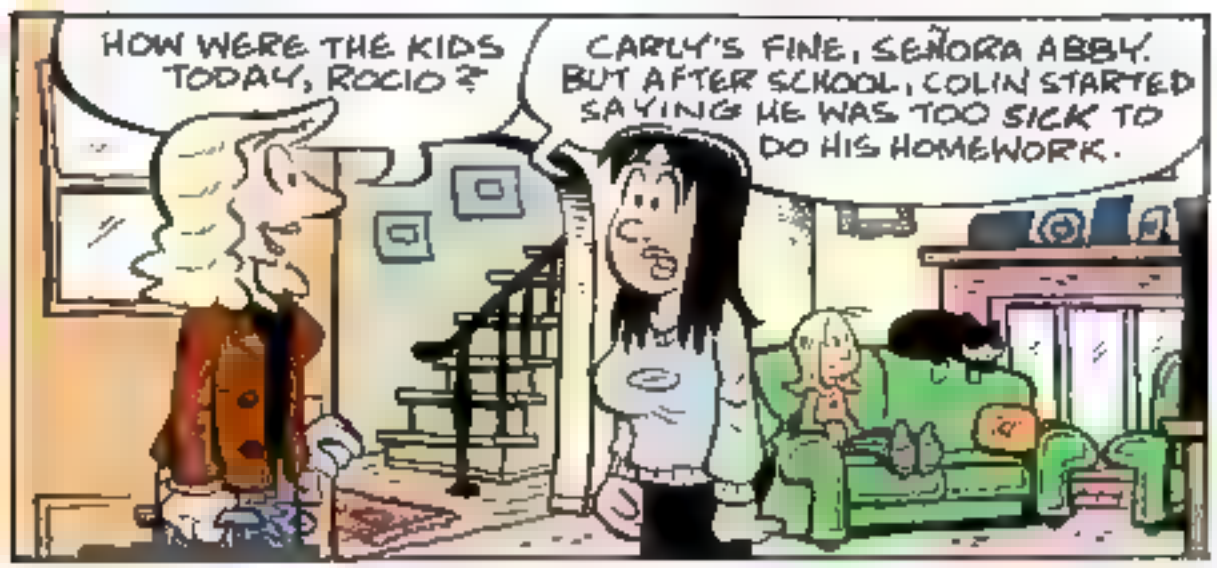

YOU LEFT THE BATHROOM FLOOR ALL WET, AND YOU DIDN'T PICK UP YOUR TOWELS!
OK--I'LL CLEAN IT UP.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO TELL YOU, LEN! YOU'RE WORSE THAN THE KIDS!
Y'KNOW, YOU'VE BEEN AWFULLY IRRITABLE LATELY. IS SOMETHING BUGGING YOU?
DUH!
I MEAN BESIDES ME!

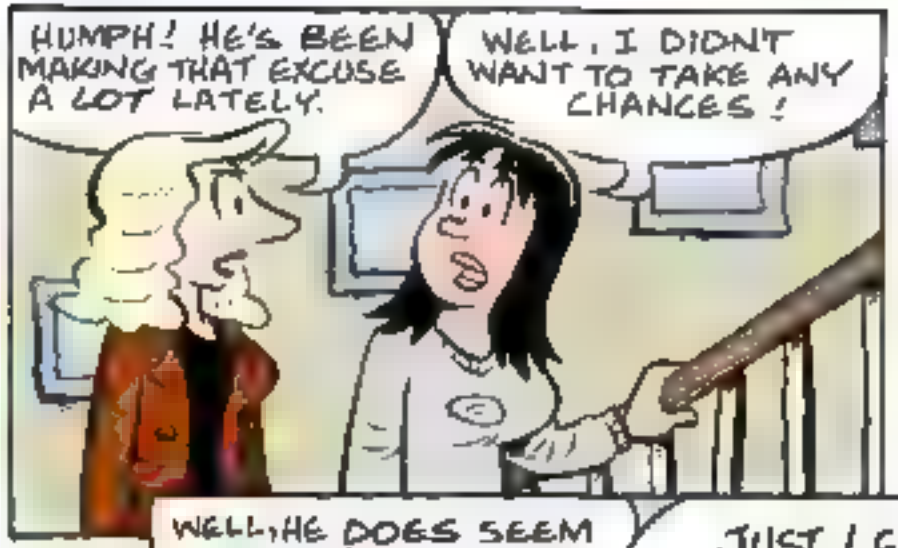

I'VE BEEN MARRIED FOR A LONG TIME, DR. ARDIN. BUT LATELY MY HUSBAND'S REALLY BEEN GETTING ON MY NERVES.
IT'S LITTLE, STUPID THINGS— THE WAY HE WALKS... THE WAY HE CHEWS... EVEN THE BOOKS HE READS!
WOW! I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU MEAN!
SO, WHAT CAN I DO?
WHEN I FIGURE IT OUT, I'LL TELL YOU.


WHAT IS IT NOW, ABBY?
I JUST WISH YOU'D EAT AT THE TABLE, THAT'S ALL!
MAN! LATELY IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYTHING I DO BUGS YOU! YOU'RE NOT PERFECT EITHER, Y'KNOW! THERE ARE PLENTY OF THINGS YOU DO THAT BUG ME!
4-15
T-THERE ARE?!
WELL-- NOTHING VERY IMPORTANT...
TAPLABON


WHY HAVE YOU BEEN CARPING AT ME SO MUCH LATELY? I'M NOT ACTING DIFFERENTLY.
:SIGH: ... YOU'RE RIGHT, LEN.
I GUESS I'VE FELT STRESSED OUT LATELY
WHY TAKE IT OUT ON ME?
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I FEEL SAFE ENOUGH WITH TO SHOW MY FEELINGS TO!
4-16
SO, WHEN YOU PICK AT ME, I SHOULD TAKE IT AS A COMPLIMENT?
YOU'RE SO UNDERSTANDING!

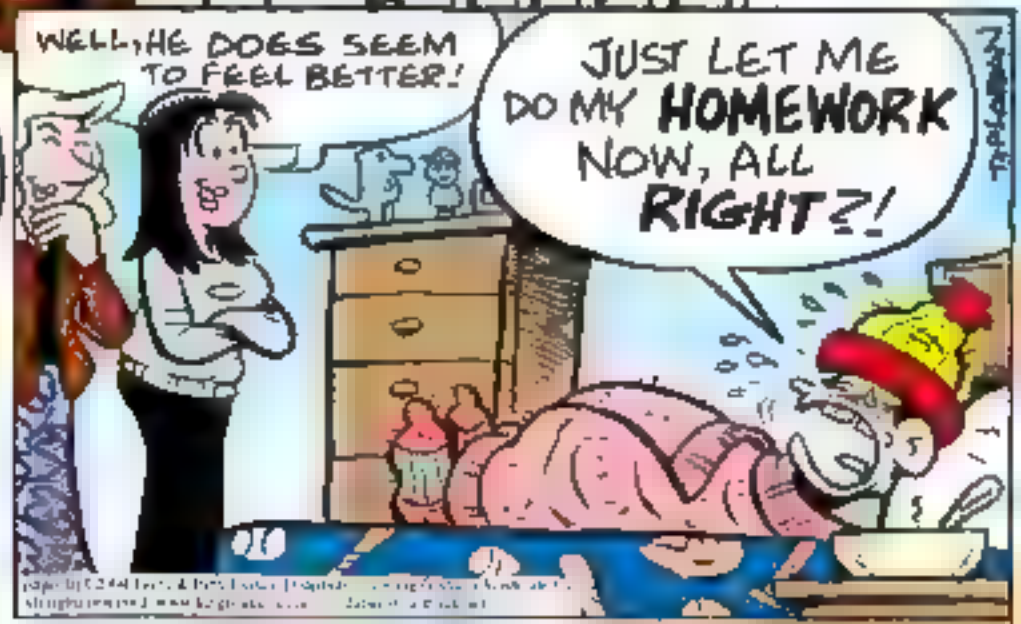

I'M SORRY I'VE BEEN SO IRRITABLE LATELY, LEN.
I LOVE MY LIFE, BUT SOMETIMES I JUST FEEL TRAPPED AND OVERWHELMED BY ALL MY RESPONSIBILITIES.
SO, WHAT WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH THAT?
4.17
A ONE-WAY PLANE TICKET TO PUERTO VALLARTA.
OKAAY...


HOW WERE THE KIDS TODAY, ROCIO?
CARLY'S FINE, SEÑORA ABBY. BUT AFTER SCHOOL, COLIN STARTED SAYING HE WAS TOO SICK TO DO HIS HOMEWORK.

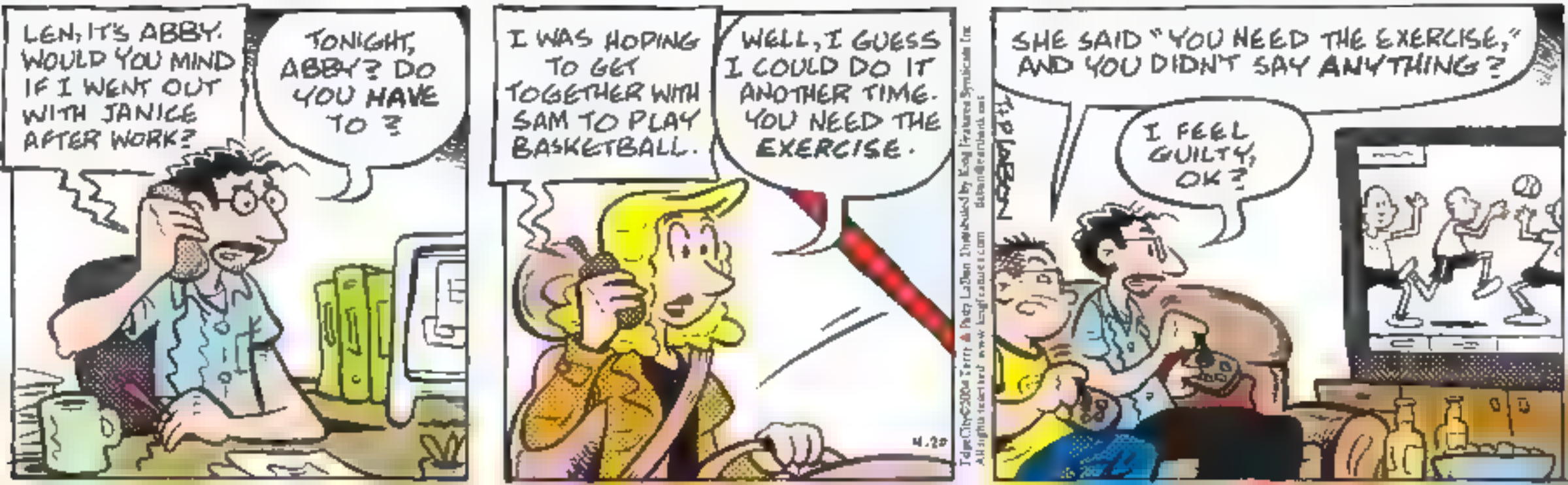

HUMPH! HE'S BEEN MAKING THAT EXCUSE A LOT LATELY.
WELL, I DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE ANY CHANCES!

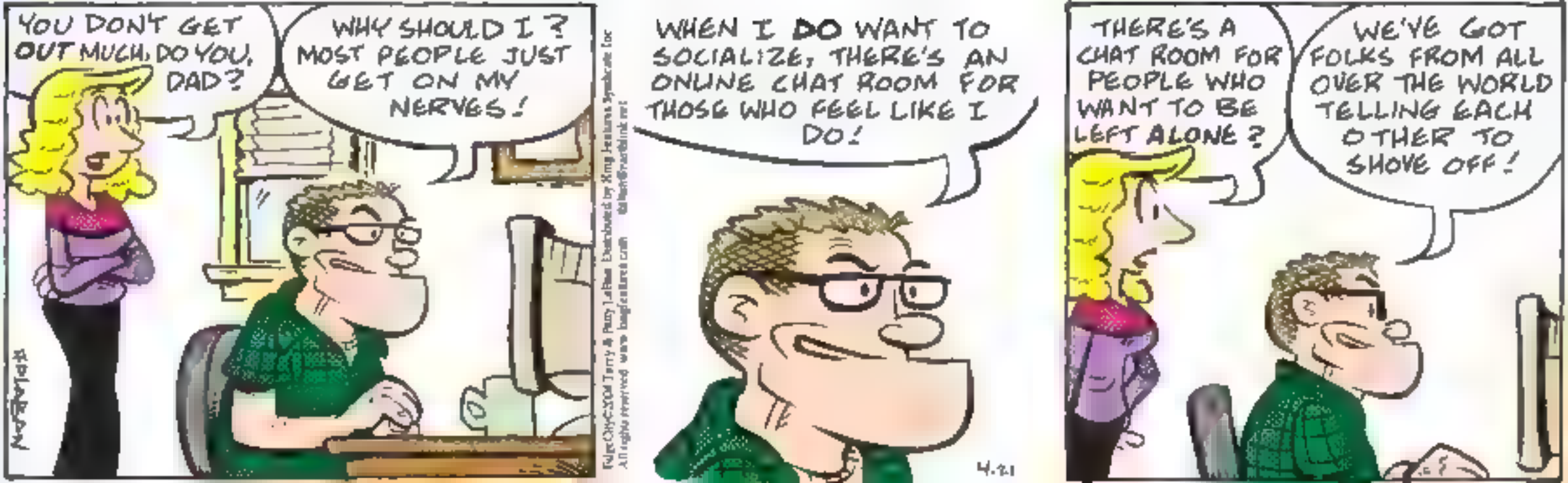
THEY SAY SWEATING HELPS PREVENT A FEVER, SO I MADE HIM TAKE A HOT BATH, WRAPPED HIM IN BLANKETS AND PUT HIM TO BED!

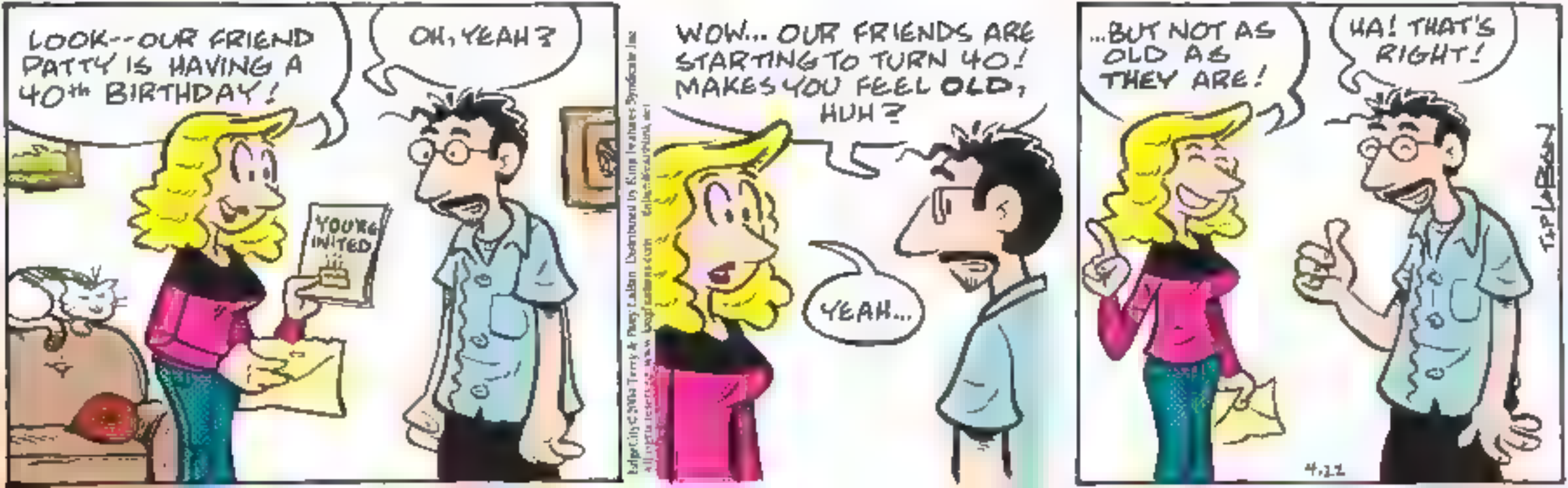
THEN I MADE HIM A SPECIAL SOUP MY MOM USED TO MAKE ME WITH CHILI PEPPERS AND LIME JUICE!
WOW! YOU TOOK THIS REALLY SERIOUSLY!

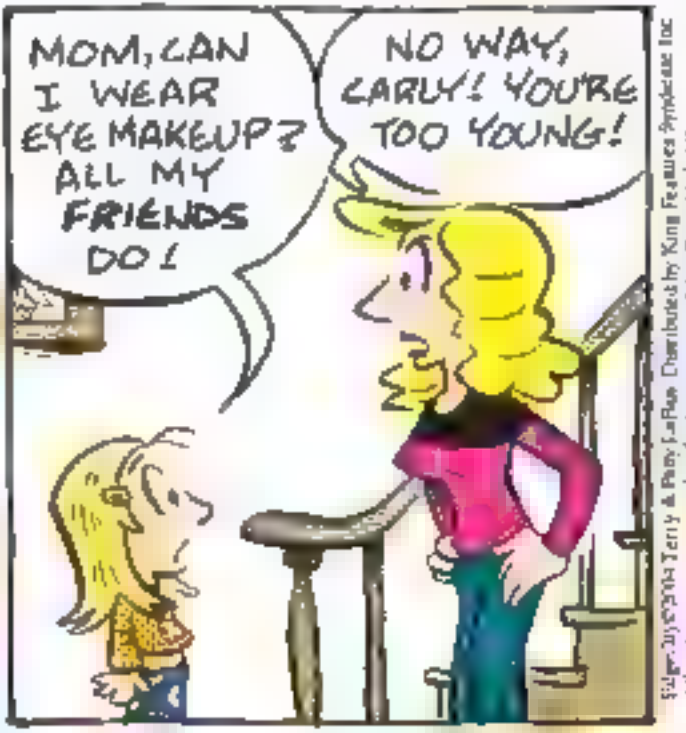

WELL, HE DOES SEEM TO FEEL BETTER!
JUST LET ME DO MY HOMEWORK NOW, ALL RIGHT?!

"AWAKENING YOUR INNER POTENTIAL"..."10 STEPS TO YOUR TRUE SELF"...
YOU KNOW, I BOUGHT THOSE, BUT THEY WEREN'T VERY INSPIRING.
I'VE HAD A HARD TIME FINDING GOOD SELF-HELP BOOKS LATELY.
MAYBE THAT'S BECAUSE YOU GET THEM ALL OFF THE REMAINDERS TABLE!
50%-70% OFF


LEN, IT'S ABBY. WOULD YOU MIND IF I WENT OUT WITH JANICE AFTER WORK?
TONIGHT, ABBY? DO YOU HAVE TO?
I WAS HOPING TO GET TOGETHER WITH SAM TO PLAY BASKETBALL.
WELL, I GUESS I COULD DO IT ANOTHER TIME. YOU NEED THE EXERCISE.
SHE SAID "YOU NEED THE EXERCISE," AND YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING?
I FEEL GUILTY, OK?


YOU DON'T GET OUT MUCH, DO YOU, DAD?
WHY SHOULD I? MOST PEOPLE JUST GET ON MY NERVES!
WHEN I DO WANT TO SOCIALIZE, THERE'S AN ONLINE CHAT ROOM FOR THOSE WHO FEEL LIKE I DO!
THERE'S A CHAT ROOM FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE?
WE'VE GOT FOLKS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TELLING EACH OTHER TO SHOVE OFF!
4-21


LOOK--OUR FRIEND PATTY IS HAVING A 40th BIRTHDAY!
OH, YEAH?
YOU'RE INVITED
WOW... OUR FRIENDS ARE STARTING TO TURN 40! MAKES YOU FEEL OLD, HUH?
YEAH...
...BUT NOT AS OLD AS THEY ARE!
HA! THAT'S RIGHT!
4.22



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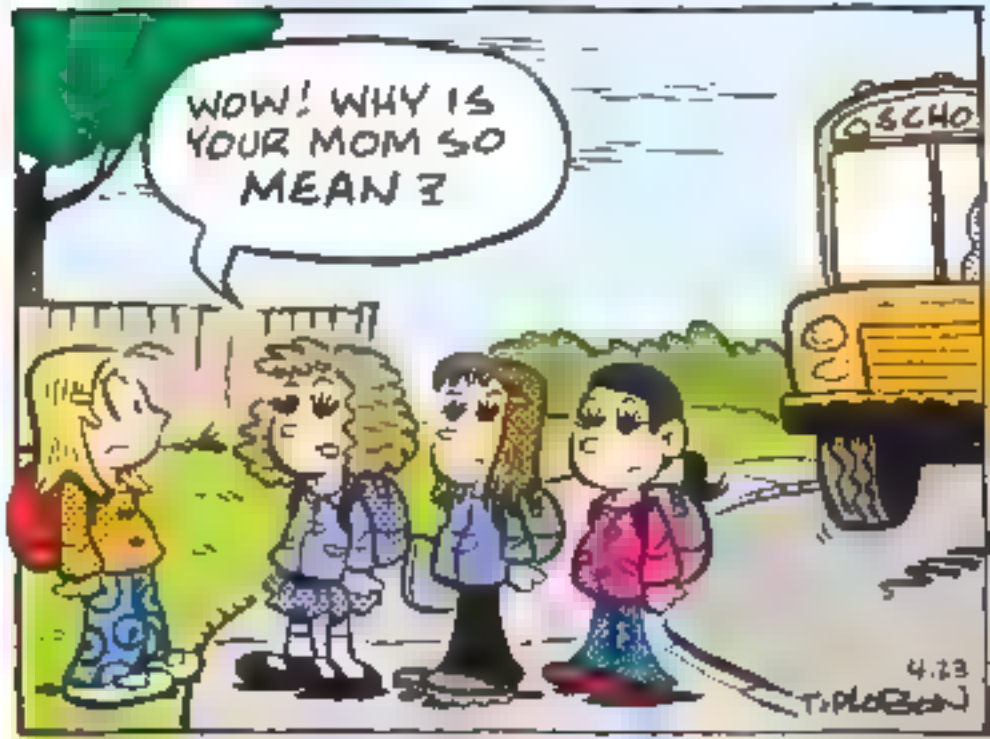
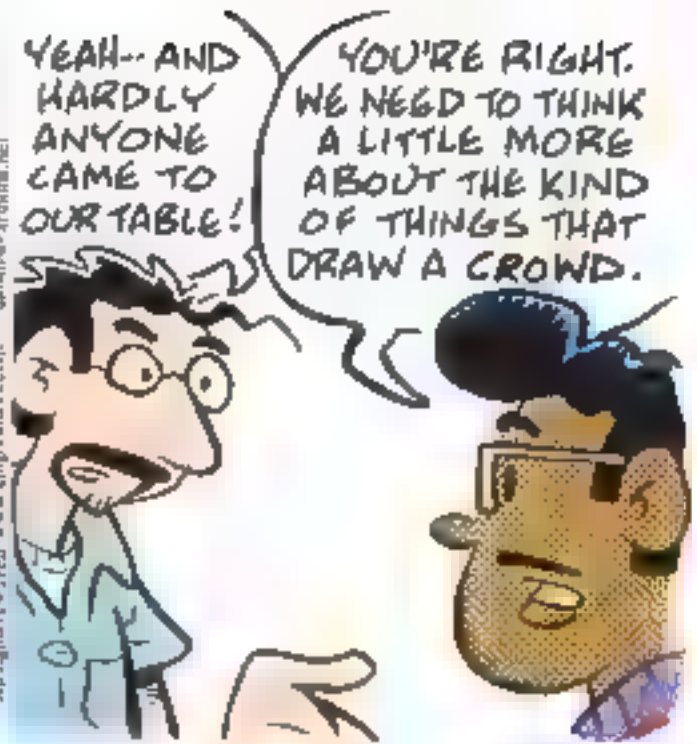
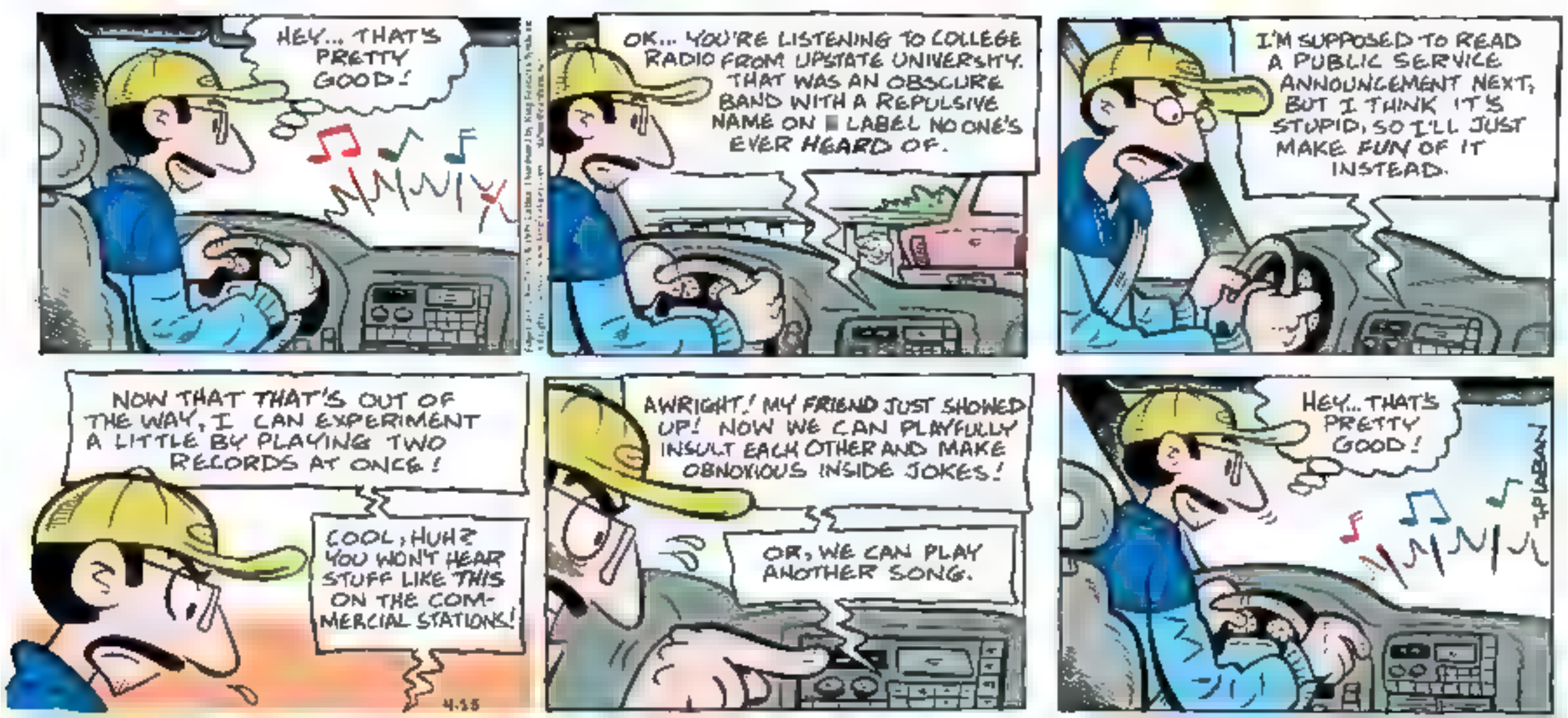
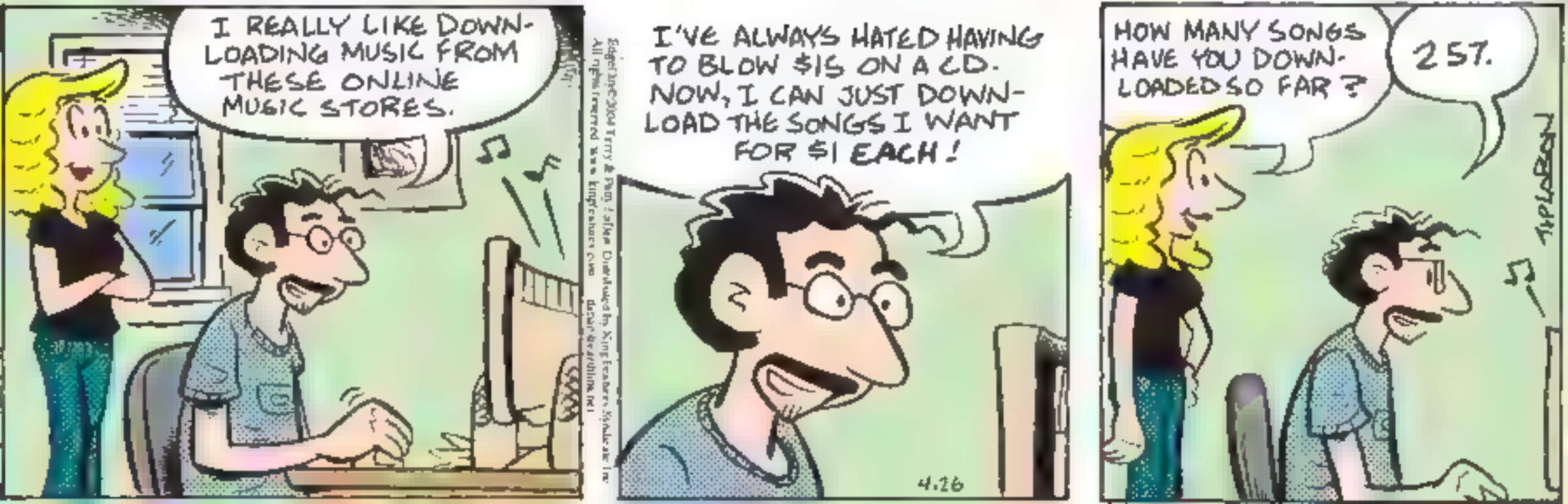


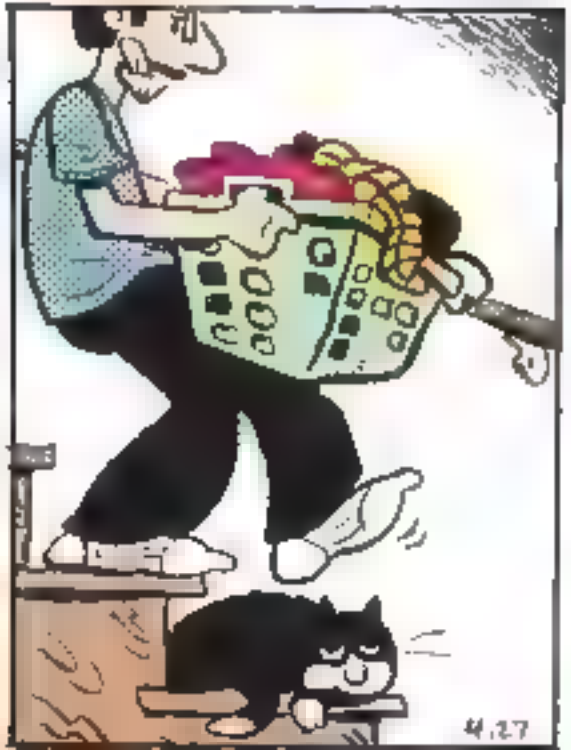
THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FAIR IS COMING UP. HOW ARE WE GOING TO PROMOTE OURSELVES?
WELL... LAST YEAR WE GAVE AWAY REFRIGERATOR MAGNETS

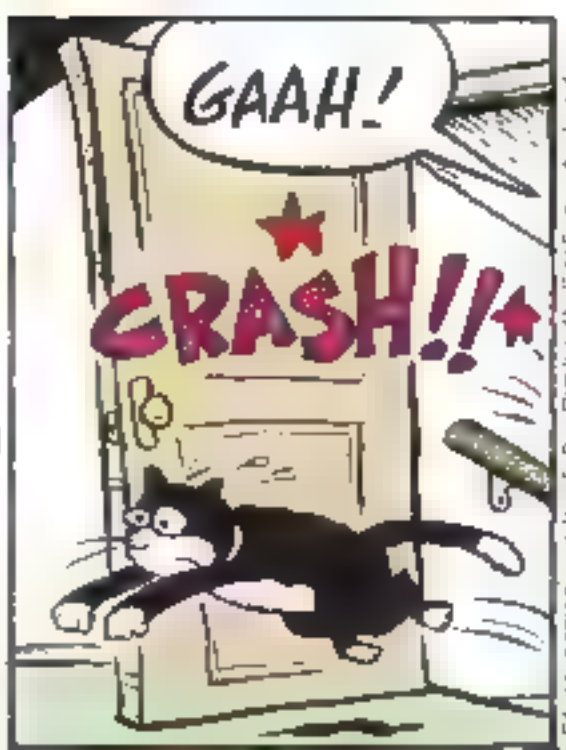

YEAH-- AND HARDLY ANYONE CAME TO OUR TABLE!
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE NEED TO THINK A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THE KIND OF THINGS THAT DRAW A CROWD.

LEADFOOT COURIERS, INC.
FREE BEER


HEY... THAT'S PRETTY GOOD!
OK... YOU'RE LISTENING TO COLLEGE RADIO FROM UPSTATE UNIVERSITY. THAT WAS AN OBSCURE BAND WITH A REPULSIVE NAME ON A LABEL NO ONE'S EVER HEARD OF.
I'M SUPPOSED TO READ A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT NEXT, BUT I THINK IT'S STUPID, SO I'LL JUST MAKE FUN OF IT INSTEAD.
NOW THAT THAT'S OUT OF THE WAY, I CAN EXPERIMENT A LITTLE BY PLAYING TWO RECORDS AT ONCE!
COOL, HUH? YOU WON'T HEAR STUFF LIKE THIS ON THE COMMERCIAL STATIONS!
4-15
AWRIGHT! MY FRIEND JUST SHOWED UP! NOW WE CAN PLAYFULLY INSULT EACH OTHER AND MAKE OBNOXIOUS INSIDE JOKES!
OR, WE CAN PLAY ANOTHER SONG.
HEY... THAT'S PRETTY GOOD!
TUPLABAN


I REALLY LIKE DOWNLOADING MUSIC FROM THESE ONLINE MUSIC STORES.
I'VE ALWAYS HATED HAVING TO BLOW $15 ON A CD. NOW, I CAN JUST DOWNLOAD THE SONGS I WANT FOR $1 EACH!
4.26
HOW MANY SONGS HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED SO FAR?
257.
TWPLOBRON





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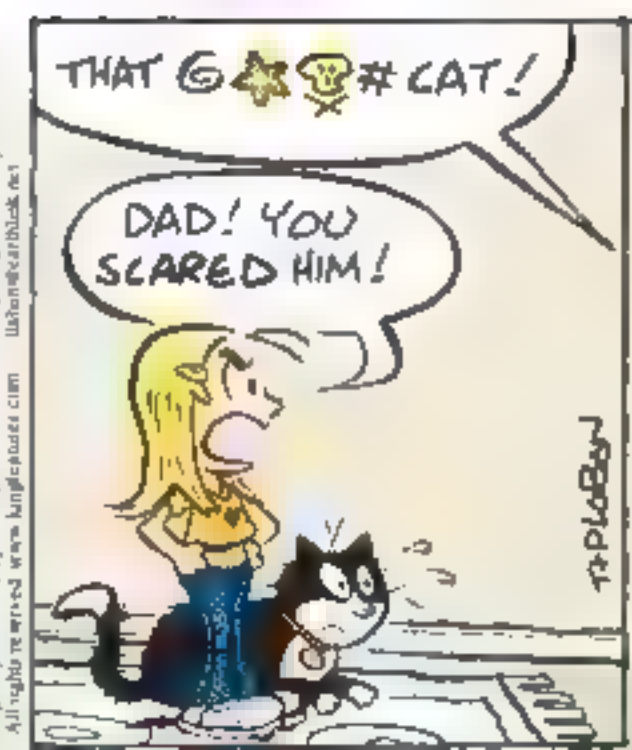
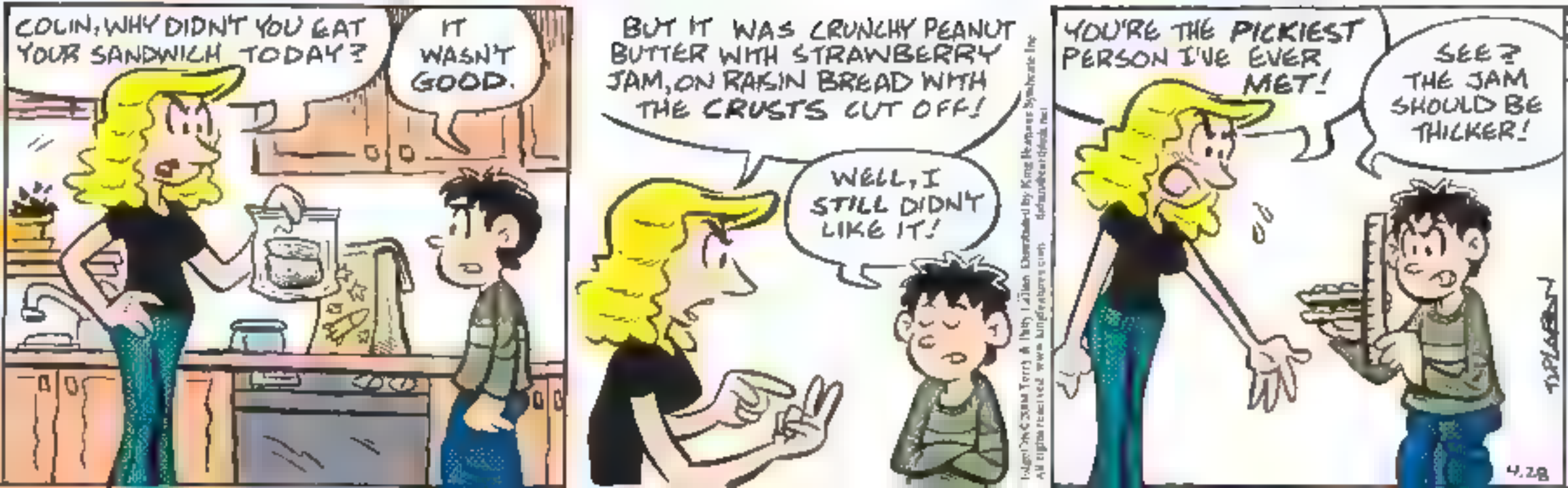
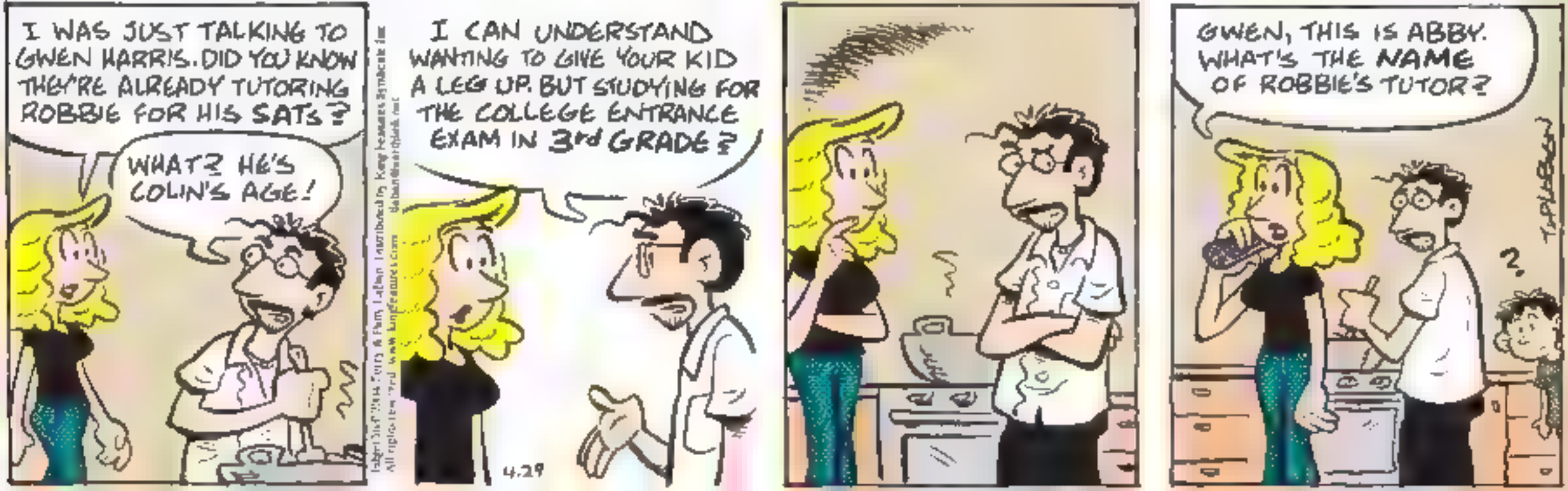
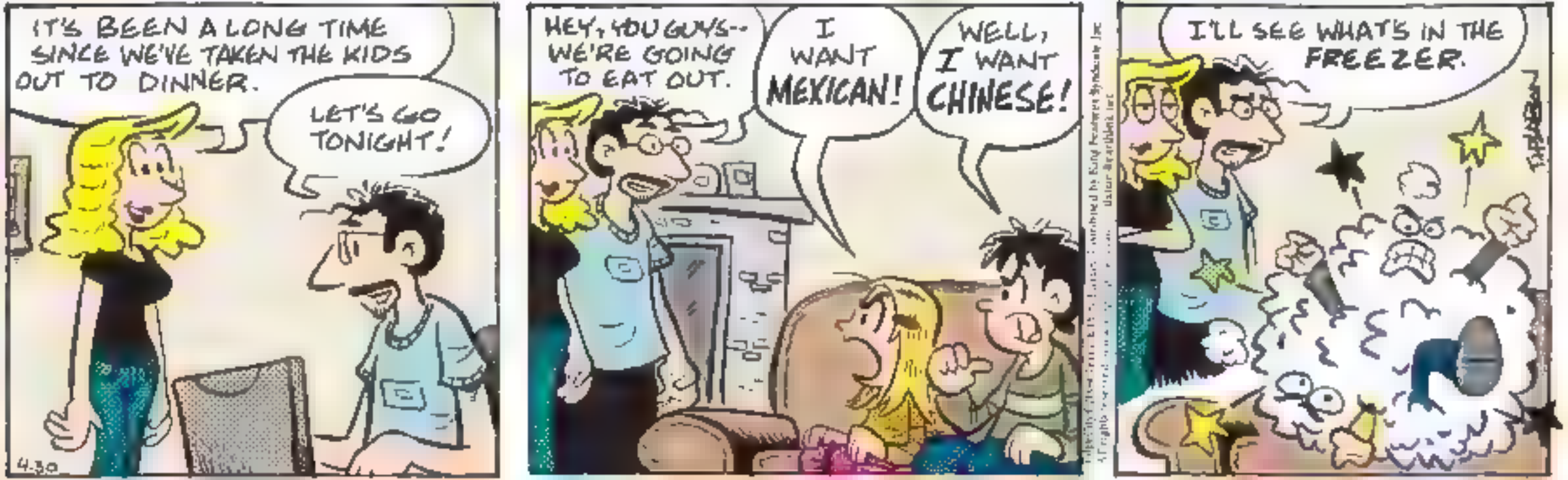
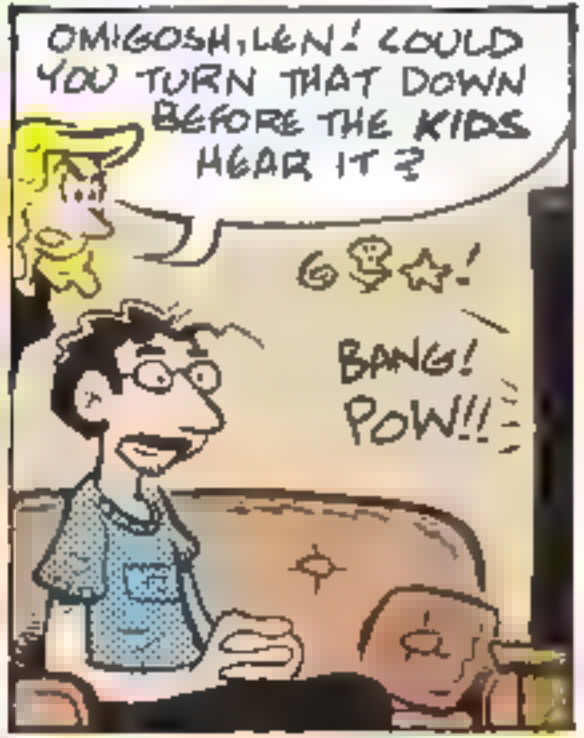



COLIN, WHY DIDN'T YOU EAT YOUR SANDWICH TODAY?
IT WASN'T GOOD.
BUT IT WAS CRUNCHY PEANUT BUTTER WITH STRAWBERRY JAM, ON RAISIN BREAD WITH THE CRUSTS CUT OFF!
WELL, I STILL DIDN'T LIKE IT!
YOU'RE THE PICKIEST PERSON I'VE EVER MET!
SEE? THE JAM SHOULD BE THICKER!
4.28


I WAS JUST TALKING TO GWEN HARRIS. DID YOU KNOW THEY'RE ALREADY TUTORING ROBBIE FOR HIS SATS?
WHAT? HE'S COLIN'S AGE!
I CAN UNDERSTAND WANTING TO GIVE YOUR KID A LEG UP. BUT STUDYING FOR THE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM IN 3rd GRADE?
4.29
GWEN, THIS IS ABBY. WHAT'S THE NAME OF ROBBIE'S TUTOR?
?


IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE TAKEN THE KIDS OUT TO DINNER.
LET'S GO TONIGHT!
4-30
HEY, YOU GUYS-- WE'RE GOING TO EAT OUT.
I WANT MEXICAN!
WELL, I WANT CHINESE!
I'LL SEE WHAT'S IN THE FREEZER.



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YOUR ROOM'S A MESS, CARLY. STRAIGHTEN IT UP.

WELL, MOM DIDN'T SAY I HAD TO.

SO?

IF I REALLY NEEDED TO CLEAN MY ROOM, MOM WOULD'VE TOLD ME.

NOW LOOK HERE, YOUNG LADY-- YOU HAVE TWO PARENTS, NOT JUST ONE!

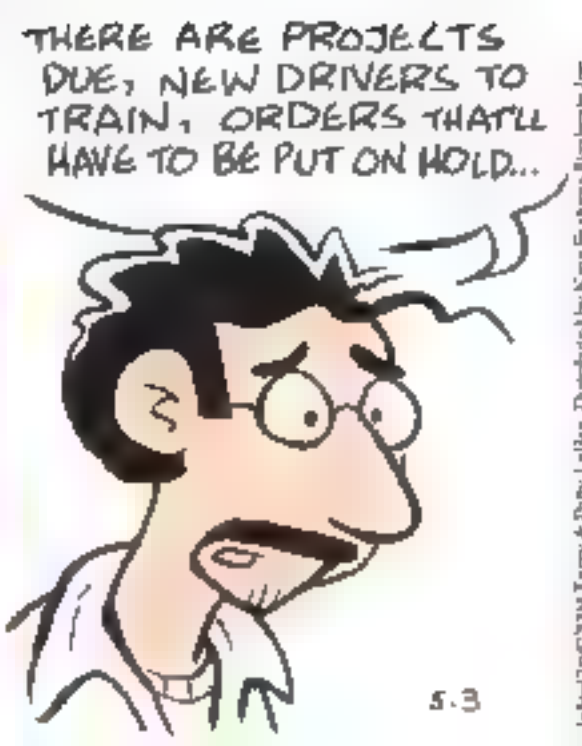
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU THINK WHAT I HAVE TO SAY ISN'T IMPORTANT, BUT WE'RE GOING TO CHANGE THAT IDEA ONCE AND FOR ALL!

S.2

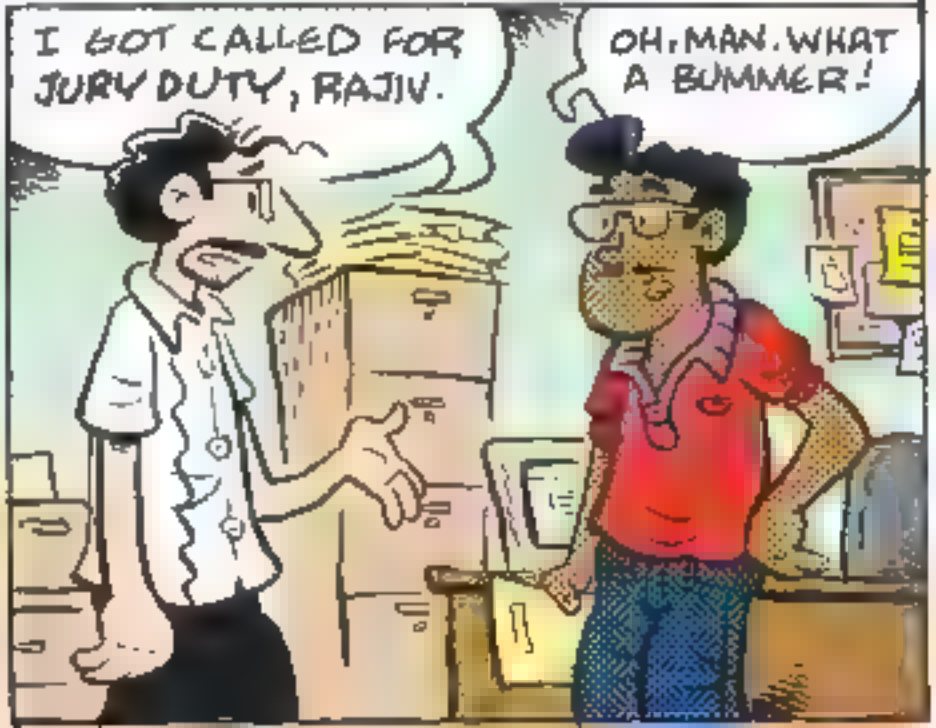
WOULD YOU TELL CARLY SHE HAS TO LISTEN TO ME?

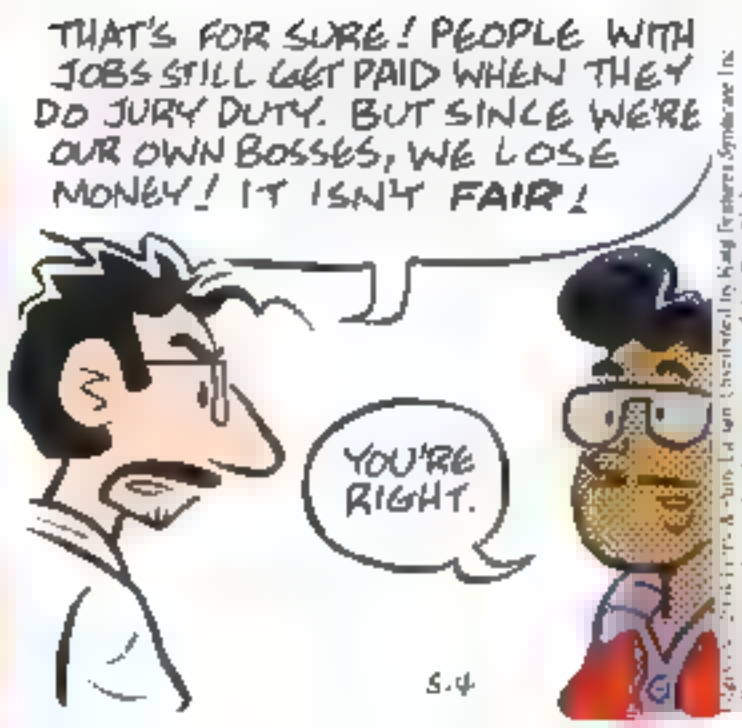
OH, NO! I'VE BEEN CALLED FOR JURY DUTY!

I WANT TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN, BUT I OWN A BUSINESS. IT'LL SUFFER IF I'M NOT THERE!

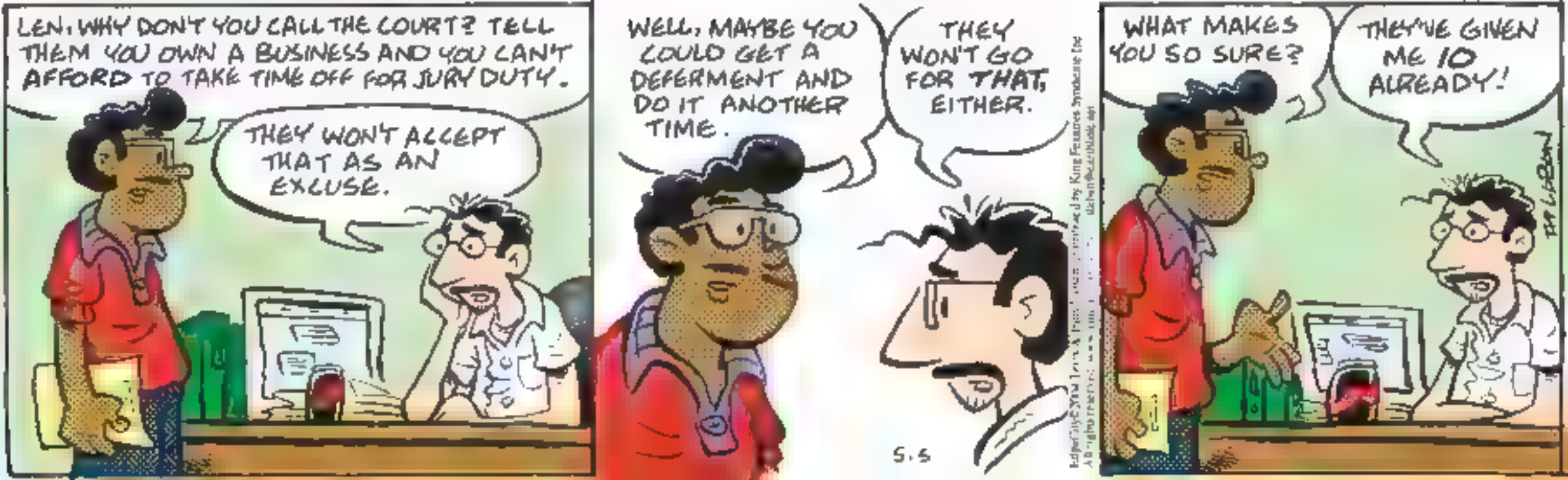

THERE ARE PROJECTS DUE, NEW DRIVERS TO TRAIN, ORDERS THAT'LL HAVE TO BE PUT ON HOLD...
5-3

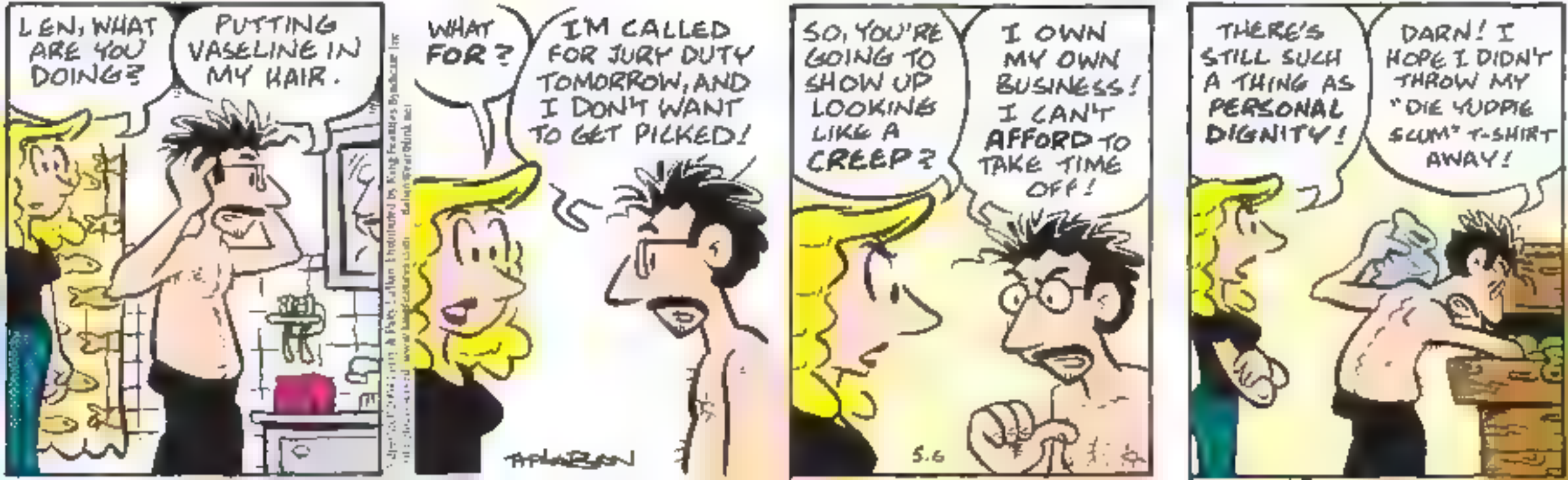
DEMOCRACY HAS A PRICE, I GUESS.
IN THIS CASE, IT COULD BE 10 GRAND!
TAPLARON

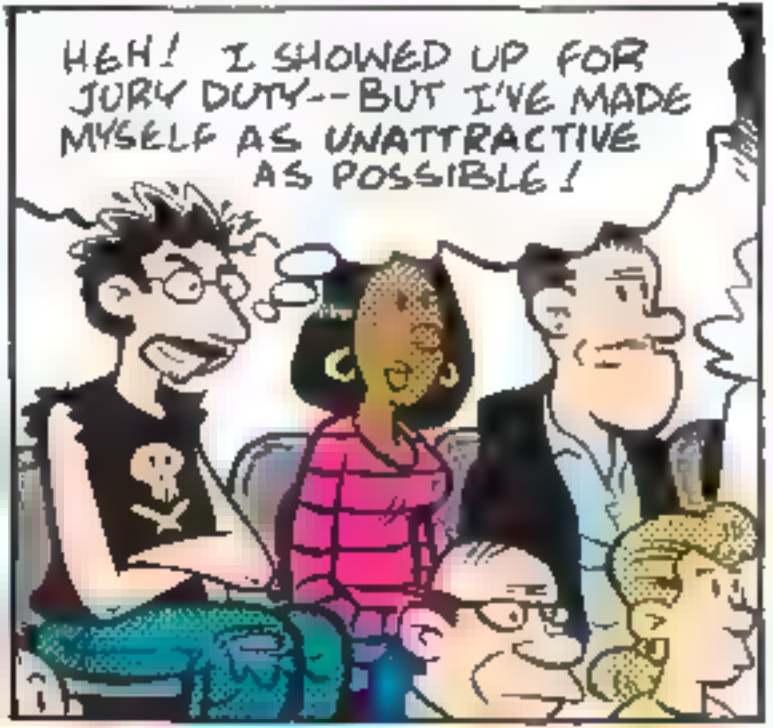

I GOT CALLED FOR JURY DUTY, RAJIV.
OH, MAN. WHAT A BUMMER!

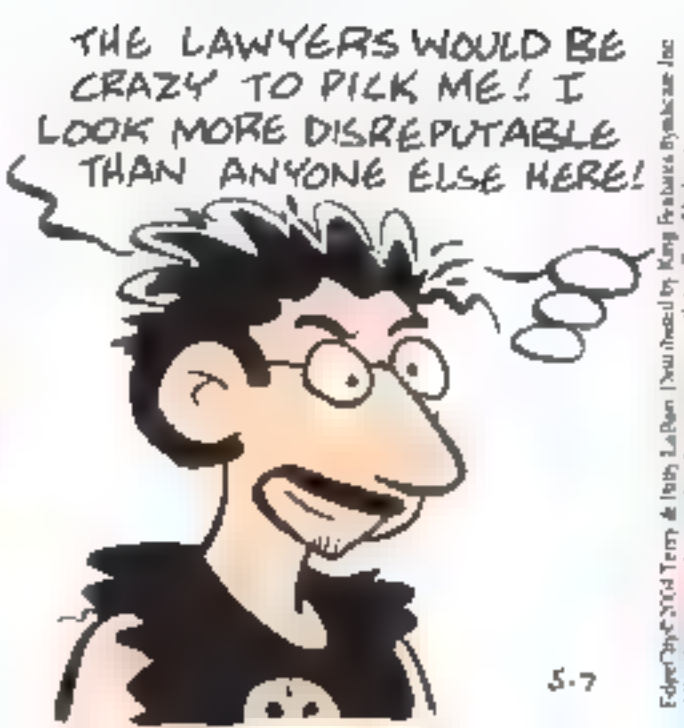

THAT'S FOR SURE! PEOPLE WITH JOBS STILL GET PAID WHEN THEY DO JURY DUTY. BUT SINCE WE'RE OUR OWN BOSSES, WE LOSE MONEY! IT ISN'T FAIR!
YOU'RE RIGHT.
5.4

BUT THEN, LIFE ISN'T FAIR!
Y'KNOW, I HATE IT WHEN YOU SAY TO ME WHAT I SAY TO MY KIDS!
TAYLOR BOW


LEN, WHY DON'T YOU CALL THE COURT? TELL THEM YOU OWN A BUSINESS AND YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE TIME OFF FOR JURY DUTY.
THEY WON'T ACCEPT THAT AS AN EXCUSE.
WELL, MAYBE YOU COULD GET A DEFERMENT AND DO IT ANOTHER TIME.
THEY WON'T GO FOR THAT, EITHER.
S.S
WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE?
THEY'VE GIVEN ME 10 ALREADY!


LEN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
PUTTING VASELINE IN MY HAIR.
WHAT FOR?
I'M CALLED FOR JURY DUTY TOMORROW, AND I DON'T WANT TO GET PICKED!
SO, YOU'RE GOING TO SHOW UP LOOKING LIKE A CREEP?
I OWN MY OWN BUSINESS! I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE TIME OFF!
THERE'S STILL SUCH A THING AS PERSONAL DIGNITY!
DARN! I HOPE I DIDN'T THROW MY "DIE YUPPIE SCUM" T-SHIRT AWAY!





5-7

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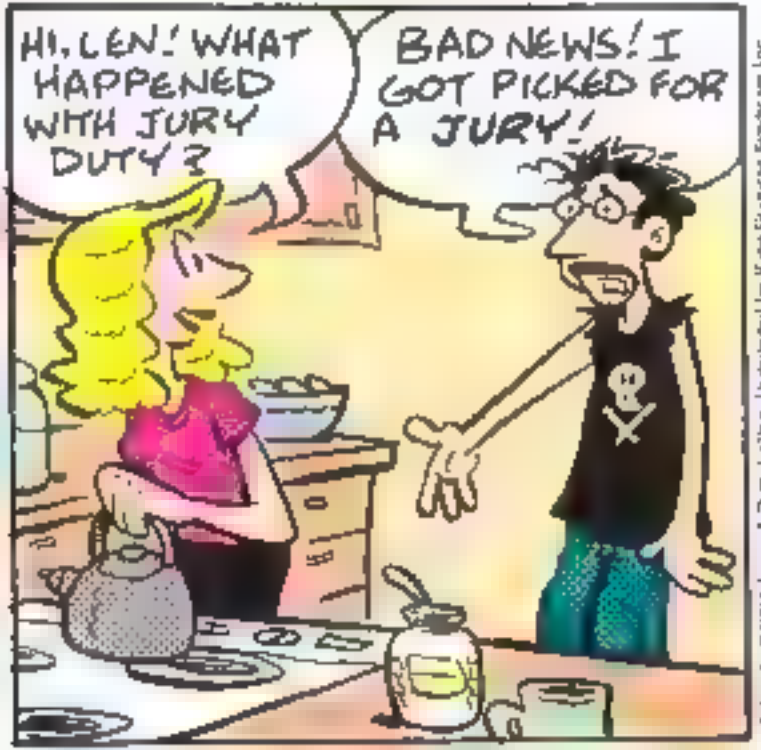

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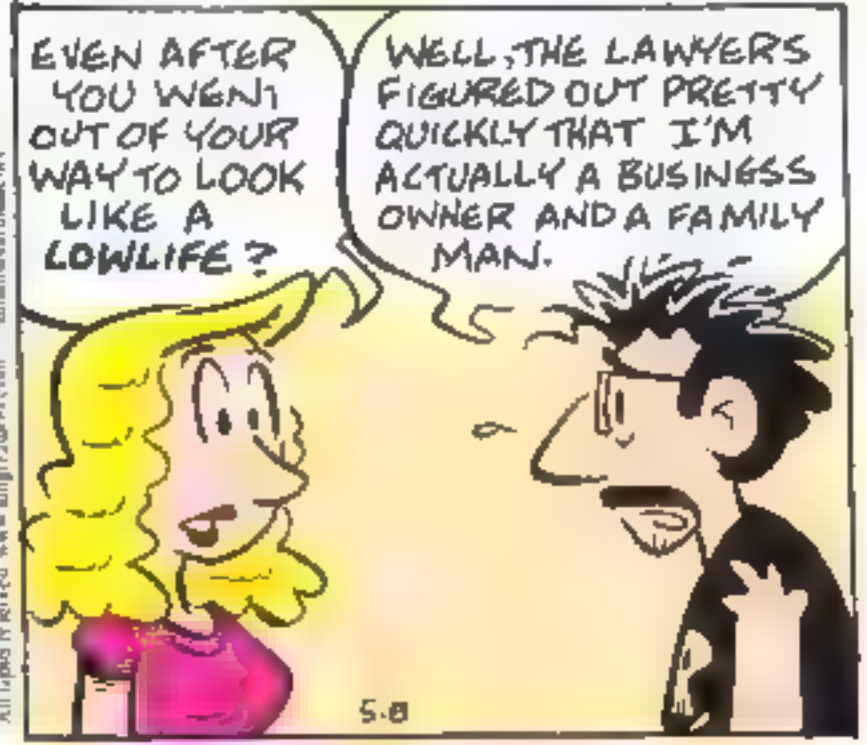
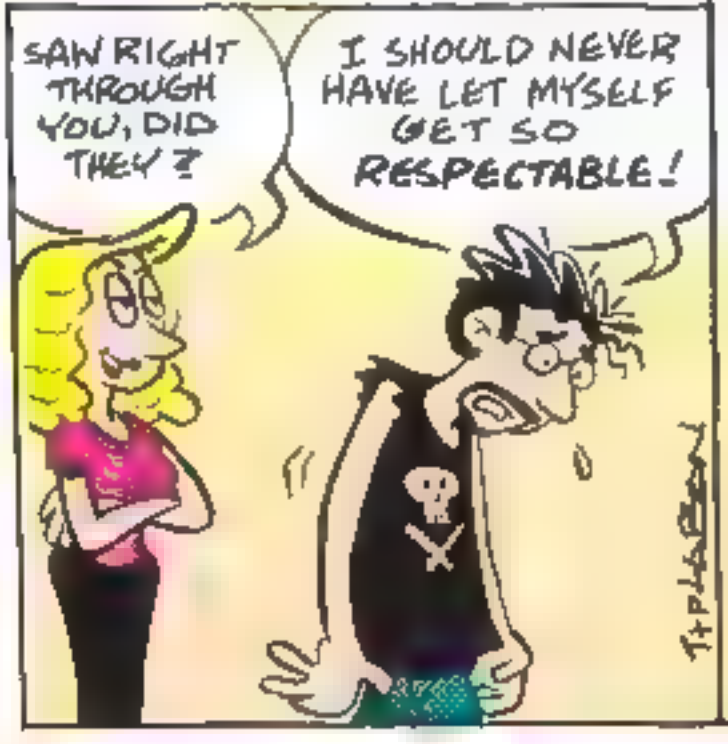
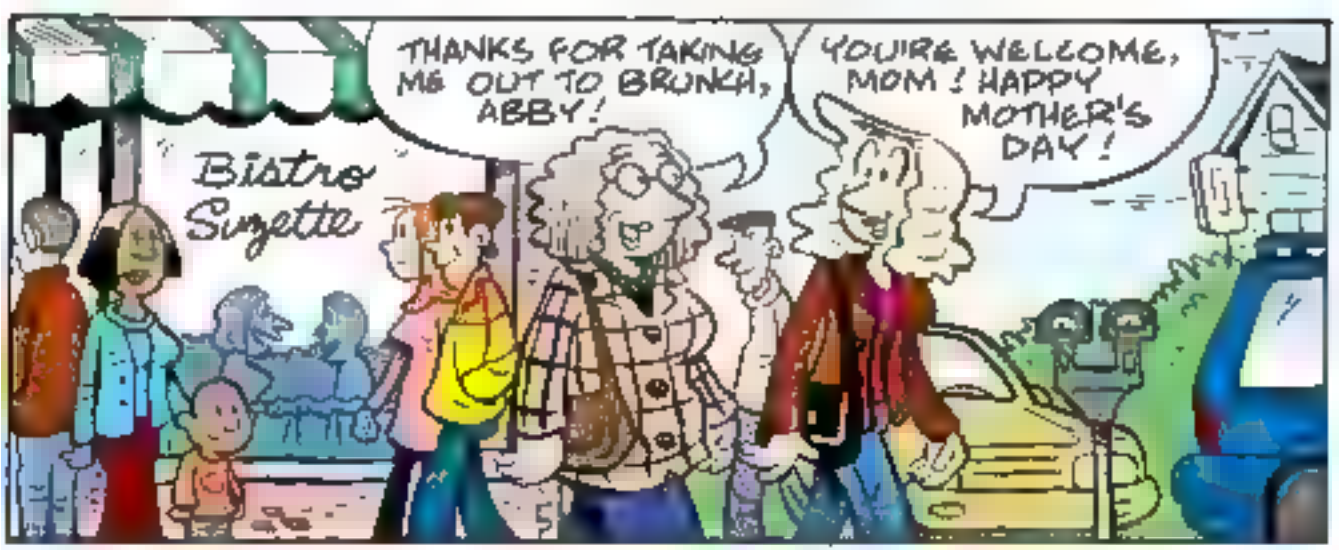
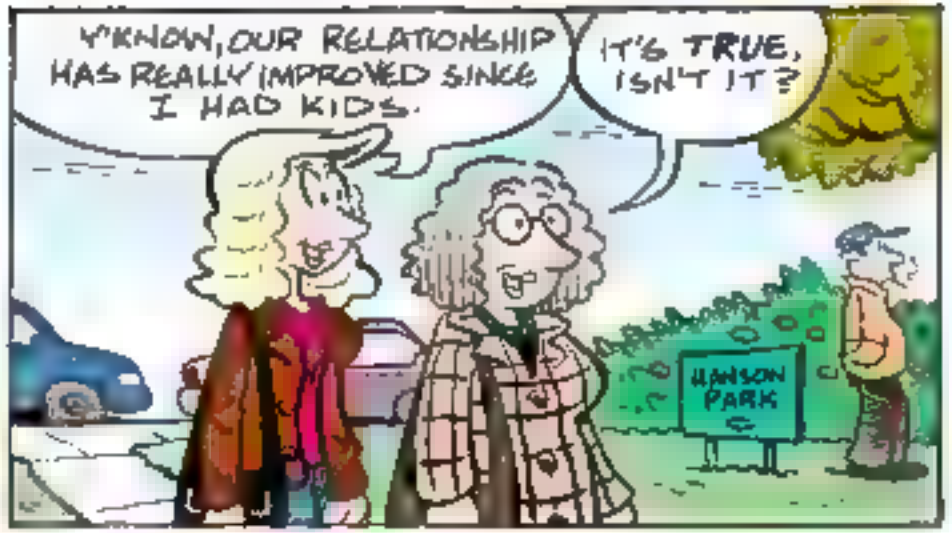
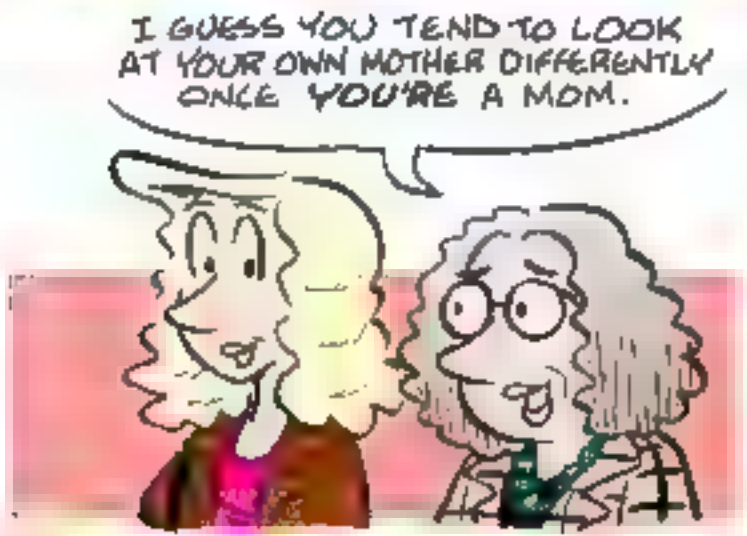


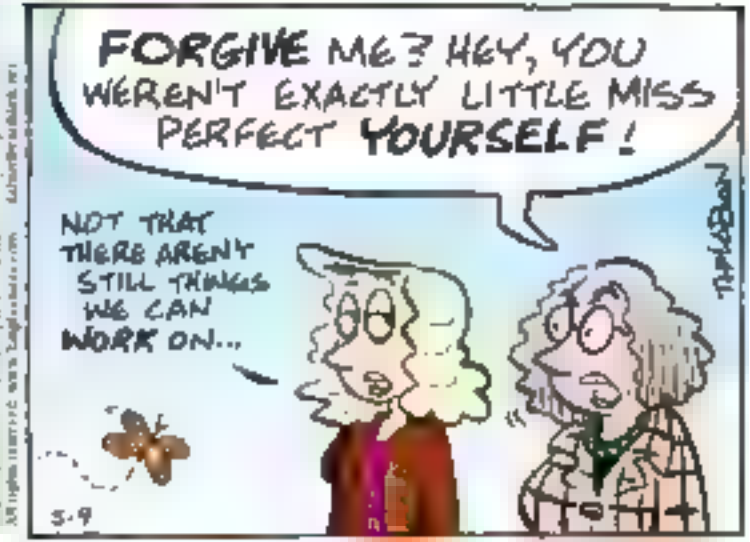



THANKS FOR TAKING ME OUT TO BRUNCH, ABBY!
YOU'RE WELCOME, MOM! HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
Bistro Suzette


Y'KNOW, OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS REALLY IMPROVED SINCE I HAD KIDS.
IT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT?
HANSON PARK


I GUESS YOU TEND TO LOOK AT YOUR OWN MOTHER DIFFERENTLY ONCE YOU'RE A MOM.

I ALWAYS DID THE BEST I COULD, THOUGH I KNOW SOMETIMES I MAY HAVE FALLEN SHORT.
THAT'S OK, MOM! I FORGIVE YOU.


FORGIVE ME? HEY, YOU WEREN'T EXACTLY LITTLE MISS PERFECT YOURSELF!
NOT THAT THERE AREN'T STILL THINGS WE CAN WORK ON...
5-9

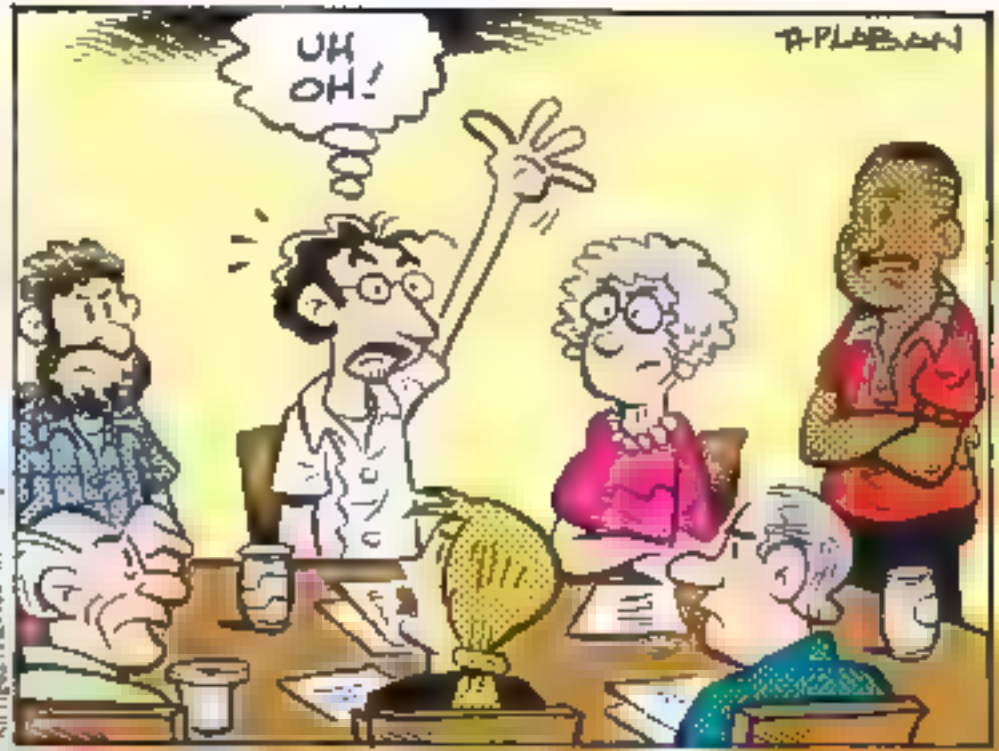
I'M OFF TO JURY DUTY, ABBY.
TRY TO HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE, LEN.
ABSOLUTELY! I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT, AND I'VE REALIZED THAT BEING A JUROR IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS A CITIZEN CAN DO!
GOOD FOR YOU!
IF THIS WORKS OUT, I MAY EVEN TRY VOTING.
TRIPLAR
5.10

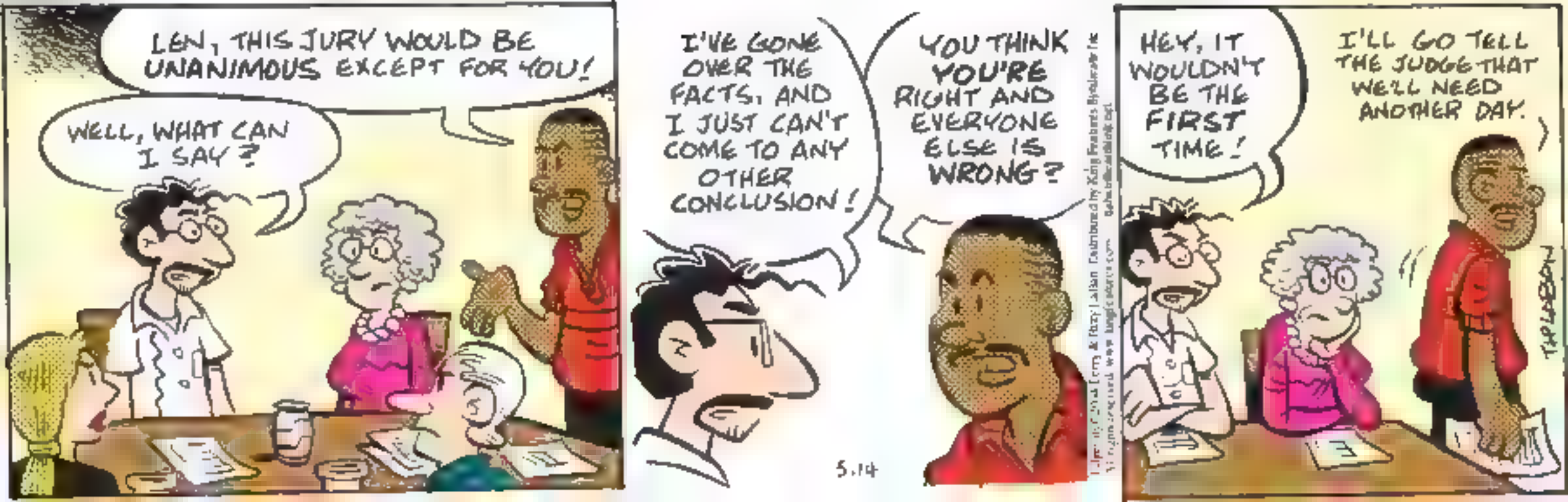
MEMBERS OF THE JURY, THE CASE YOU'RE CONSIDERING TODAY IS BETWEEN MISS IRIS SHENKS AND HER LANDLORD, MR IRWIN MASON.
PLEASE--LISTEN WITH OPEN MINDS, AND DON'T DRAW CONCLUSIONS UNTIL YOU'VE HEARD ALL THE FACTS!
5-11
AW! THERE'S NO WAY THAT POOR WOMAN COULD BE MAKING ANYTHING UP!
:SNIFF!: CAN I HAVE A TISSUE, PLEASE?

THERE'S A LOT TO CONSIDER WHEN YOU SIT ON A JURY. WE'VE HEARD BOTH ARGUMENTS, SEVERAL WITNESSES, AND HAD A LECTURE ON THE BUILDING CODE.
STILL, THERE ARE A LOT OF QUESTIONS.
5.12
FOR STARTERS, WHAT'S THAT GREEN THING STUCK IN THE DEFENSE ATTORNEY'S TEETH?

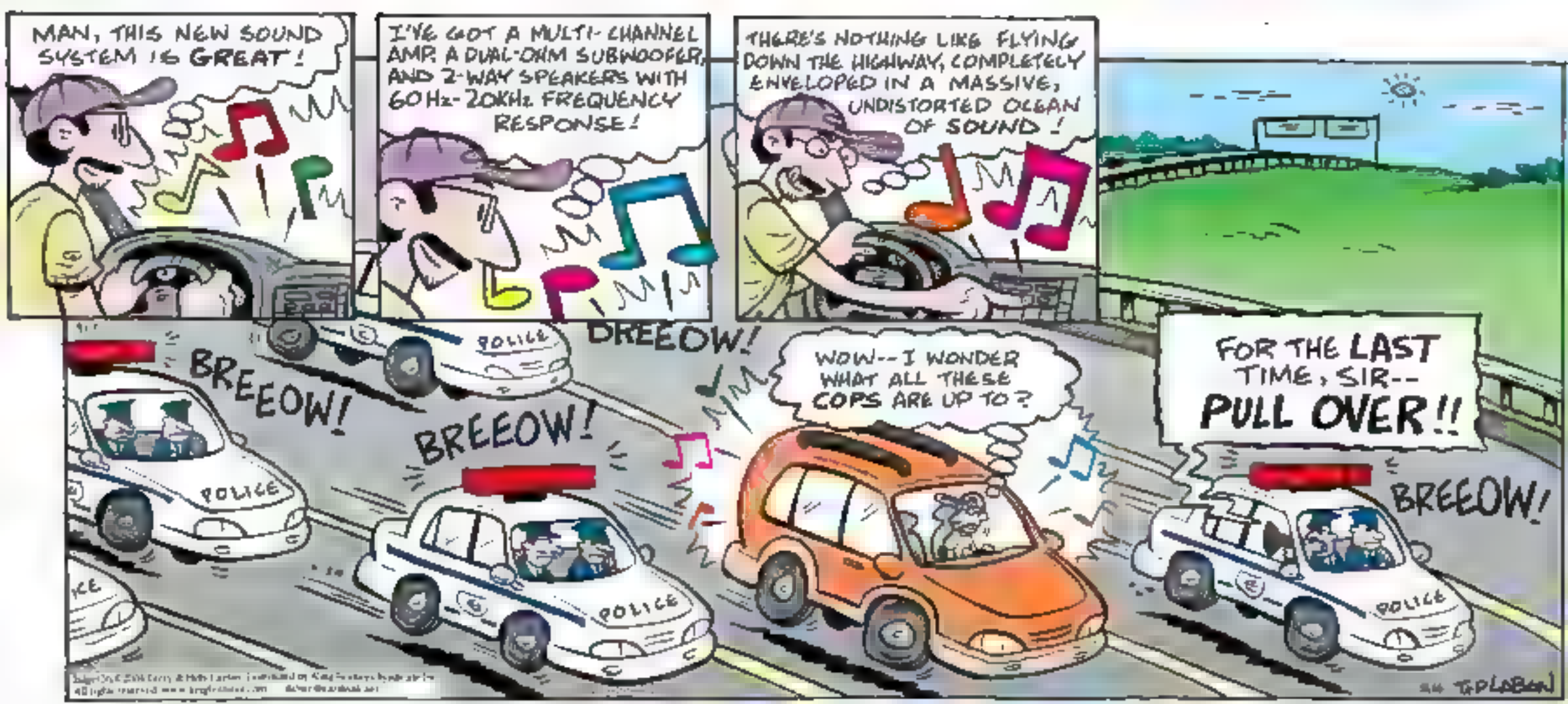
IT SEEMS LIKE THIS JURY IS DONE DELIBERATING. IT'S TIME TO TAKE A VOTE.

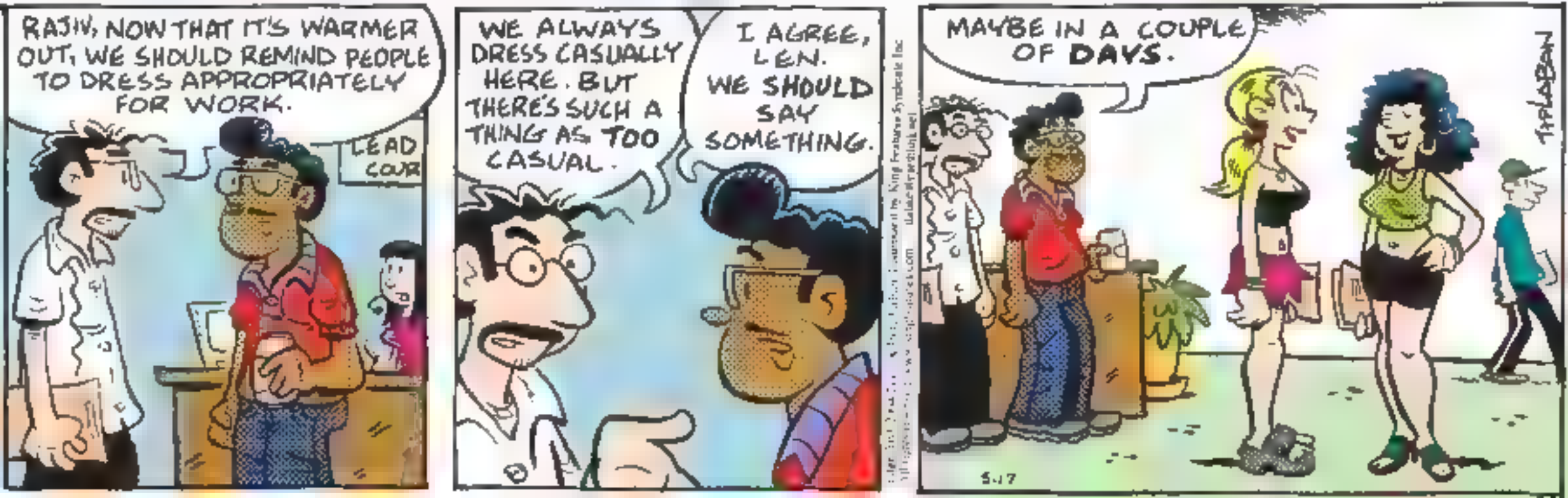
THIS SHOULD BE OVER SOON-- THE FACTS HERE SEEM PRETTY CUT AND DRIED.
WHO SIDES WITH THE PLAINTIFF?
5.13

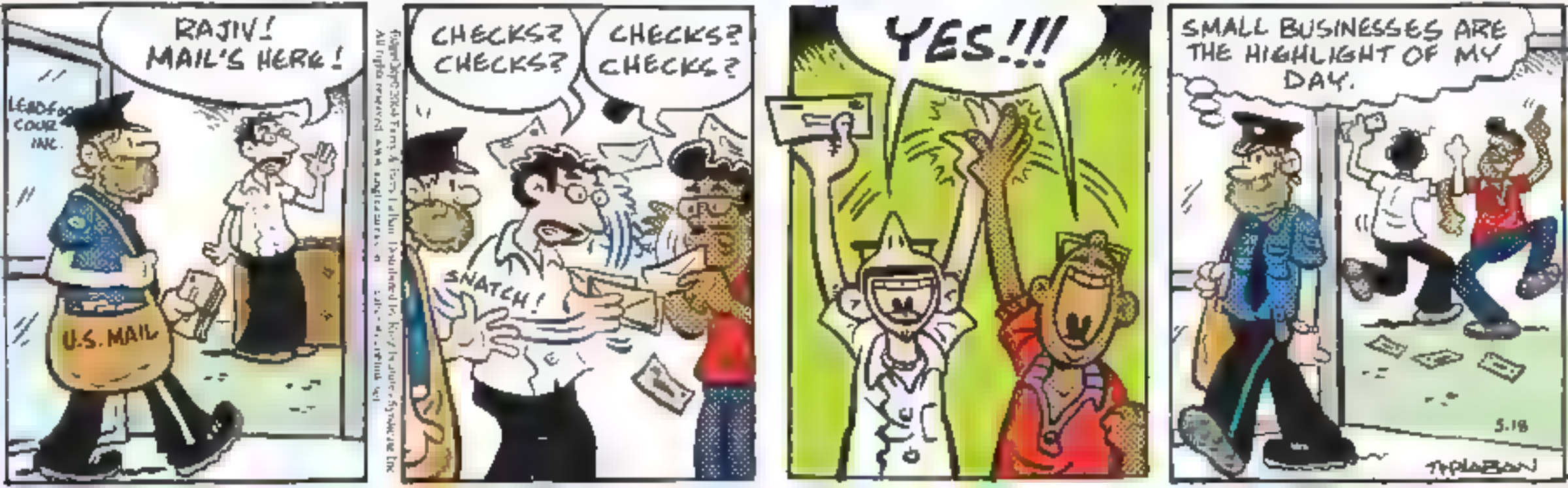

UH OH!
T-PLABAN

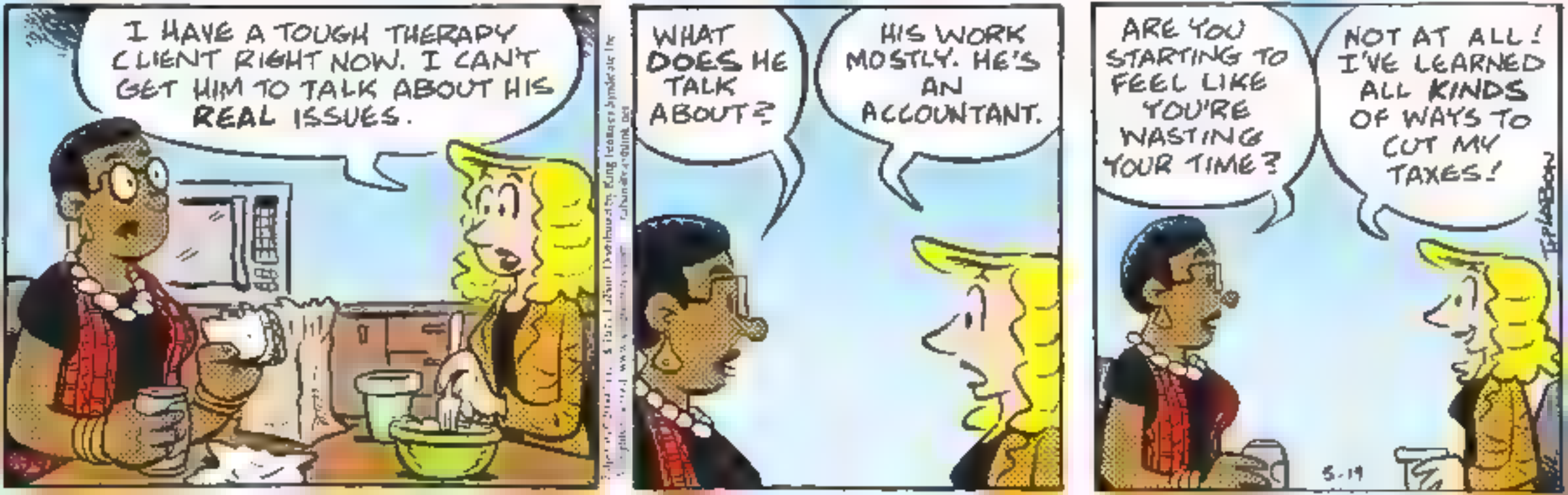

LEN, THIS JURY WOULD BE UNANIMOUS EXCEPT FOR YOU!
WELL, WHAT CAN I SAY?
I'VE GONE OVER THE FACTS, AND I JUST CAN'T COME TO ANY OTHER CONCLUSION!
YOU THINK YOU'RE RIGHT AND EVERYONE ELSE IS WRONG?
5.14
HEY, IT WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME!
I'LL GO TELL THE JUDGE THAT WE'LL NEED ANOTHER DAY.
TIM LABON

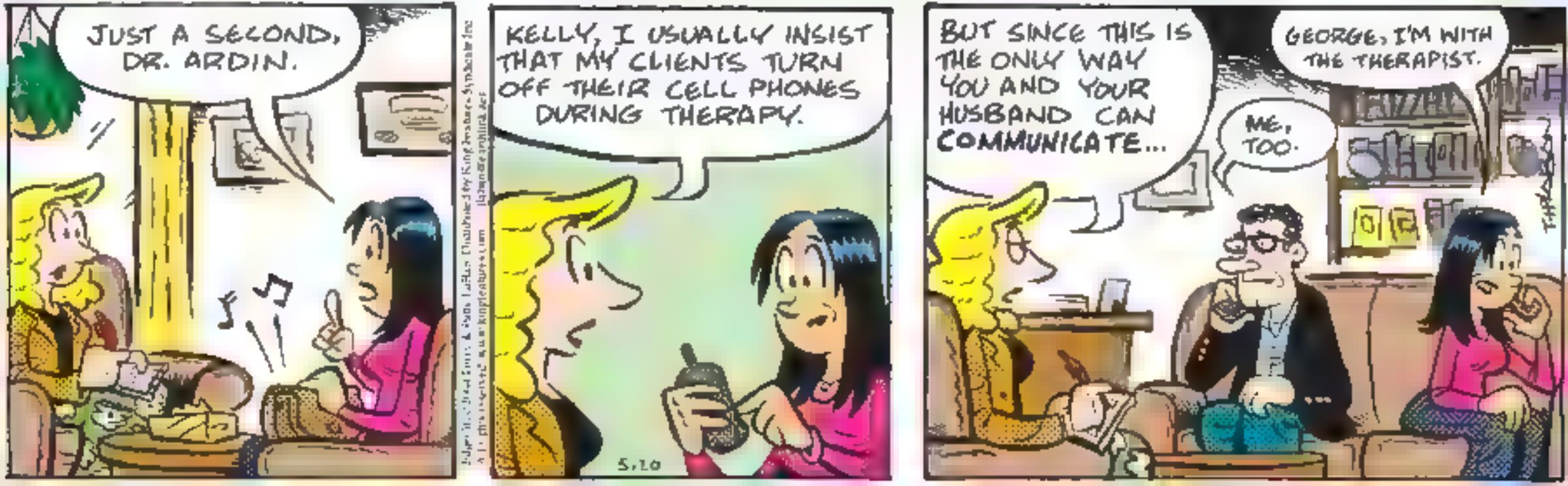
WELCOME BACK, LEN! YOU WERE OUT ON JURY DUTY FOR A LONG TIME!
I KNOW, RAJIV. DELIBERATIONS WENT ON FOREVER.
COULDN'T REACH A DECISION, HUH?
ACTUALLY, WE WERE JUST ONE VOTE SHORT OF A CONSENSUS.
YOU MEAN, ONE STUBBORN GUY KEPT EVERYONE THERE FOR A WEEK?
I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT I STUCK TO MY GUNS!
5-15

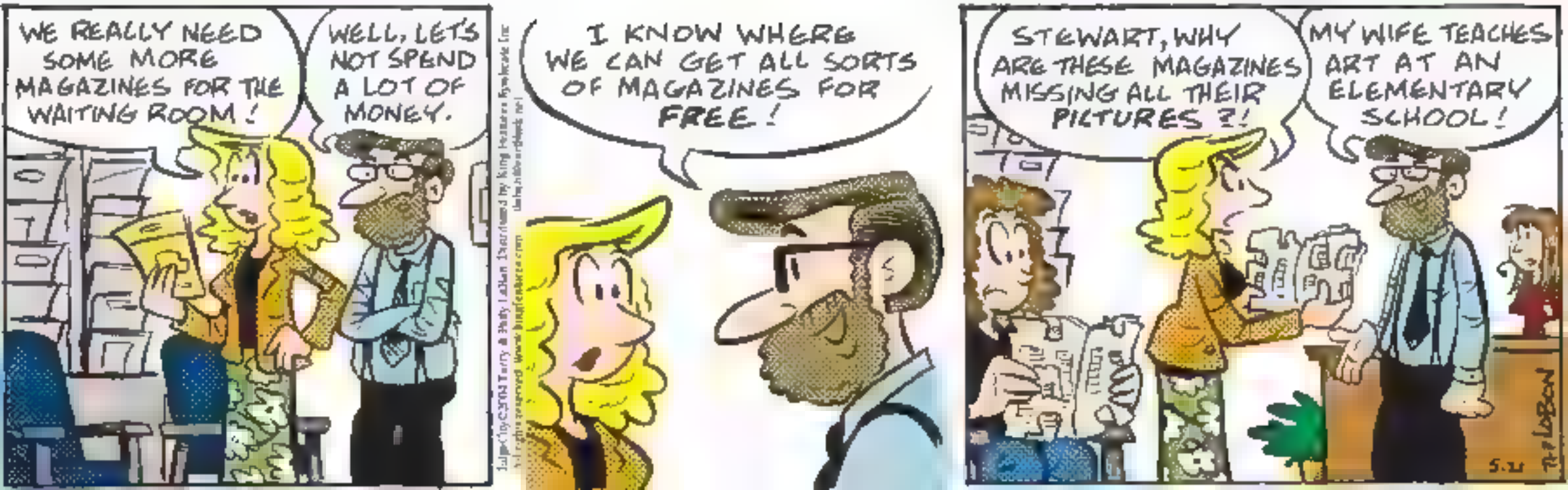

MAN, THIS NEW SOUND SYSTEM IS GREAT!
I'VE GOT A MULTI-CHANNEL AMP, A DUAL-OHM SUBWOOFER, AND 2-WAY SPEAKERS WITH 60 Hz-20KHz FREQUENCY RESPONSE!
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE FLYING DOWN THE HIGHWAY, COMPLETELY ENVELOPED IN A MASSIVE, UNDISTORTED OCEAN OF SOUND!
DREEOW!
BREEOW!
BREEOW!
WOW--I WONDER WHAT ALL THESE COPS ARE UP TO?
FOR THE LAST TIME, SIR-- PULL OVER!!
BREEOW!
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
T.P. LABAN

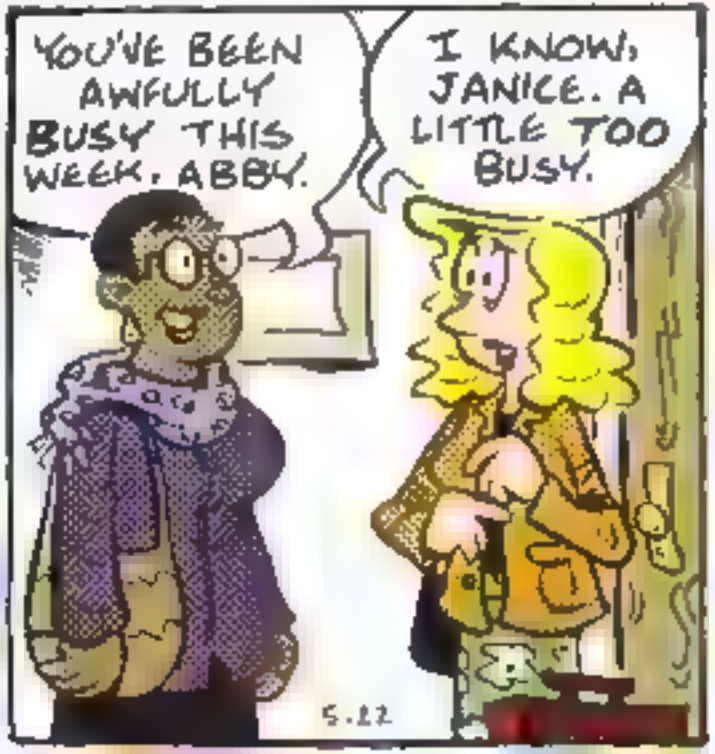

RAJIV, NOW THAT IT'S WARMER OUT, WE SHOULD REMIND PEOPLE TO DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR WORK.
LEAD COUR
WE ALWAYS DRESS CASUALLY HERE. BUT THERE'S SUCH A THING AS TOO CASUAL.
I AGREE, LEN. WE SHOULD SAY SOMETHING.
MAYBE IN A COUPLE OF DAYS.
TAPLABEN
5-17

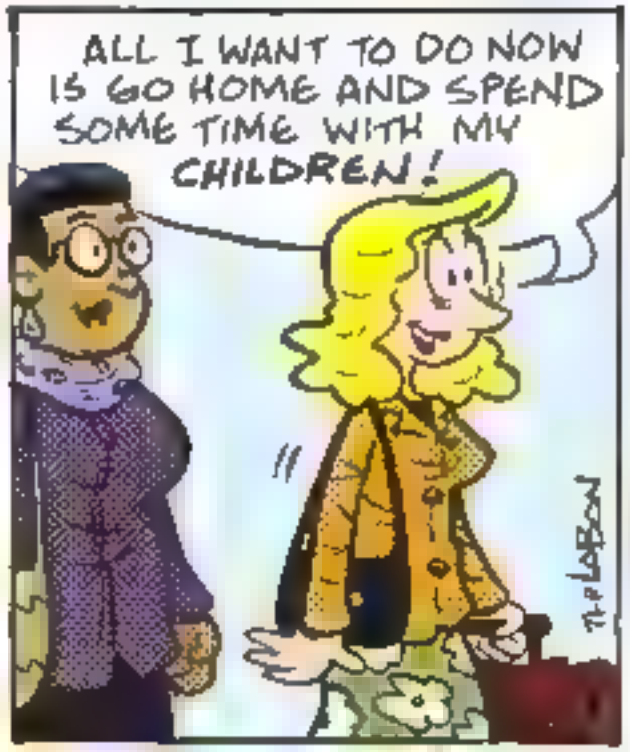

RAJIV! MAIL'S HERE!
LEADFOOT COUR INC.
U.S. MAIL
CHECKS? CHECKS?
CHECKS? CHECKS?
SNATCH!
YES!!!
SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY DAY.
5.18

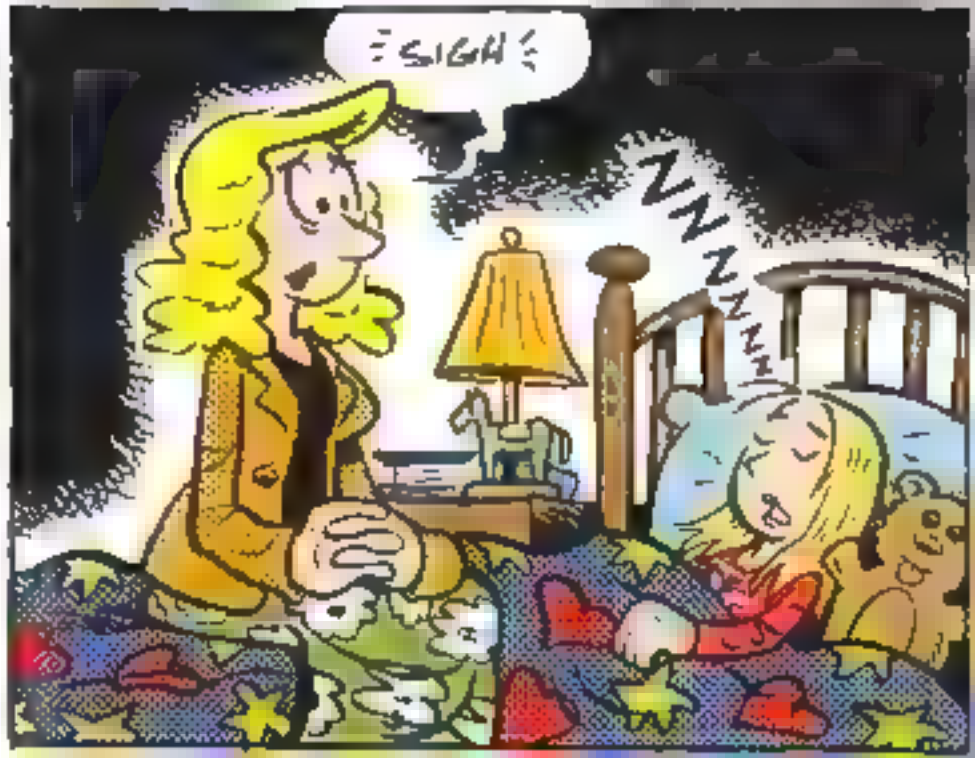

I HAVE A TOUGH THERAPY CLIENT RIGHT NOW. I CAN'T GET HIM TO TALK ABOUT HIS REAL ISSUES.
WHAT DOES HE TALK ABOUT?
HIS WORK MOSTLY. HE'S AN ACCOUNTANT.
ARE YOU STARTING TO FEEL LIKE YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME?
NOT AT ALL! I'VE LEARNED ALL KINDS OF WAYS TO CUT MY TAXES!
5-19


JUST A SECOND, DR. ARDIN.
KELLY, I USUALLY INSIST THAT MY CLIENTS TURN OFF THEIR CELL PHONES DURING THERAPY.
5.20
BUT SINCE THIS IS THE ONLY WAY YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND CAN COMMUNICATE...
GEORGE, I'M WITH THE THERAPIST.
ME, TOO.


WE REALLY NEED SOME MORE MAGAZINES FOR THE WAITING ROOM!
WELL, LET'S NOT SPEND A LOT OF MONEY.
I KNOW WHERE WE CAN GET ALL SORTS OF MAGAZINES FOR FREE!
STEWART, WHY ARE THESE MAGAZINES MISSING ALL THEIR PICTURES?!
MY WIFE TEACHES ART AT AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!


YOU'VE BEEN AWFULLY BUSY THIS WEEK, ABBY.
I KNOW, JANICE. A LITTLE TOO BUSY.
5.22


ALL I WANT TO DO NOW IS GO HOME AND SPEND SOME TIME WITH MY CHILDREN!
NOBLOM


SIGH
ZZZZZZZ

IF YOU TAKE A MINUTE, SIR, TO APPLY FOR A "MIKE THE PANHANDLER" CHARGE CARD, YOU CAN SAVE 10% ON TODAY'S DONATION!
OKS
LE!
OFF%
ABUSE
NO PARKING ANYTIME
THABEAN

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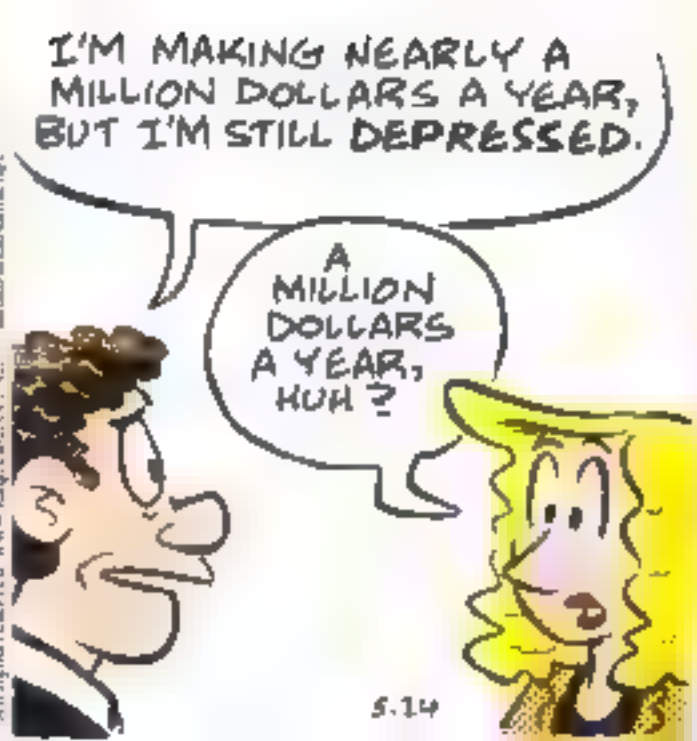
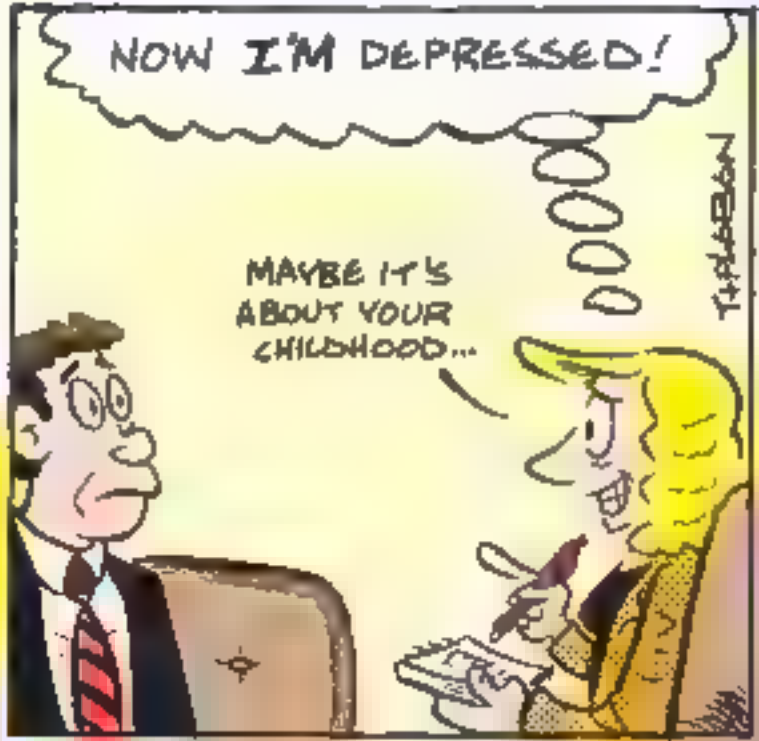
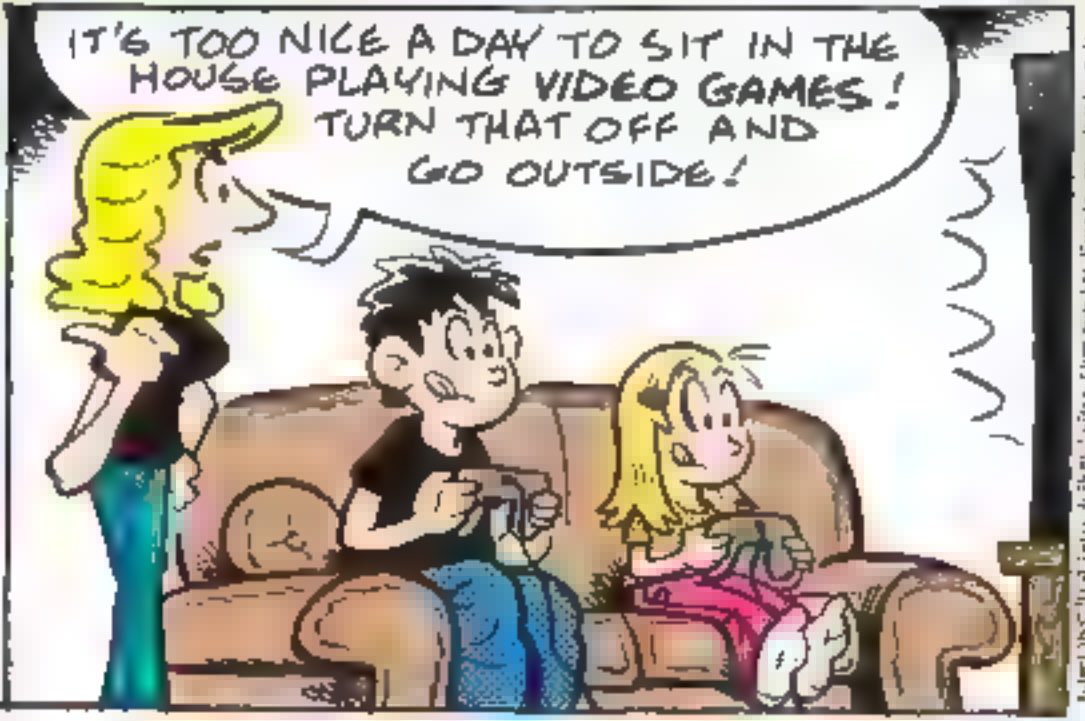
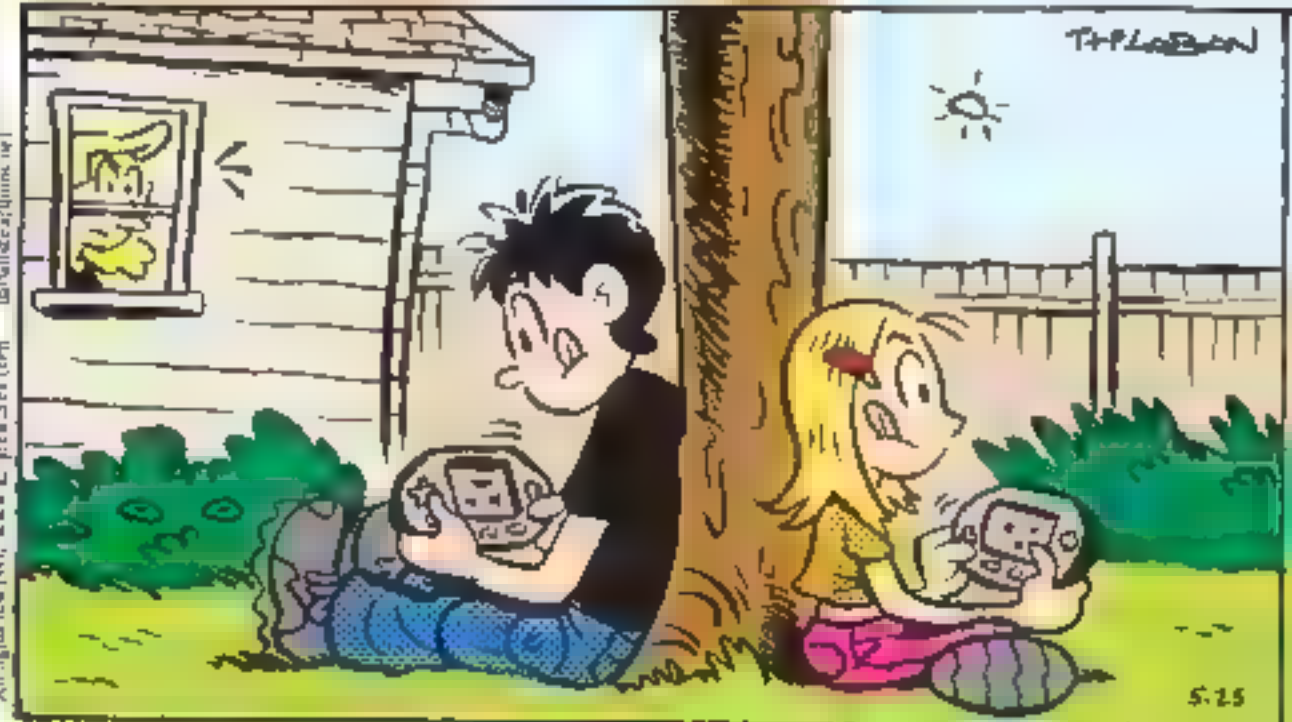
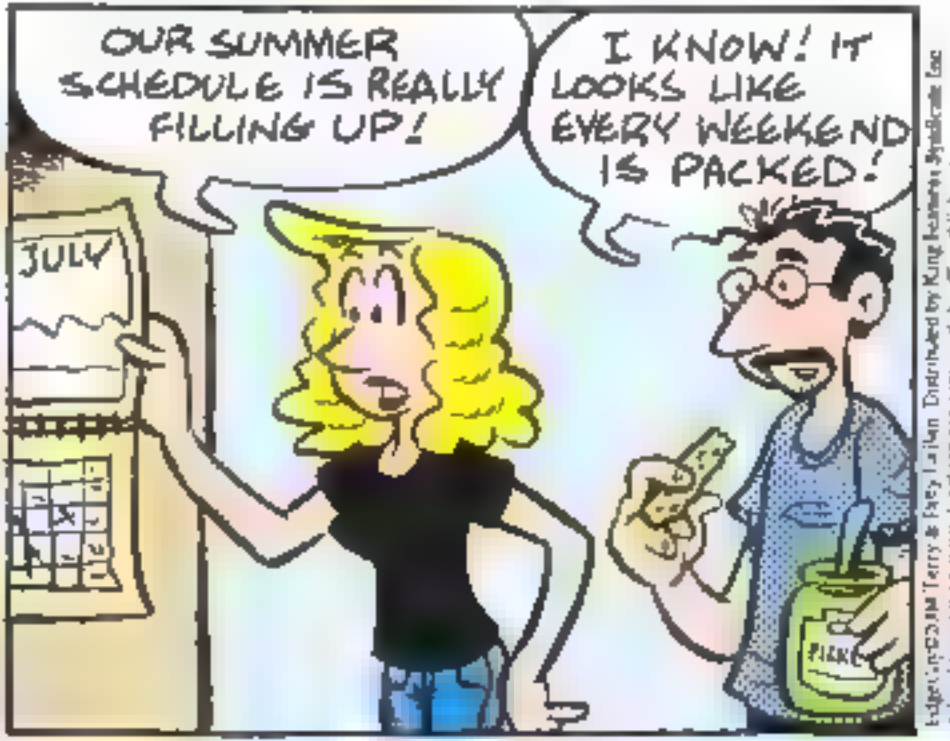


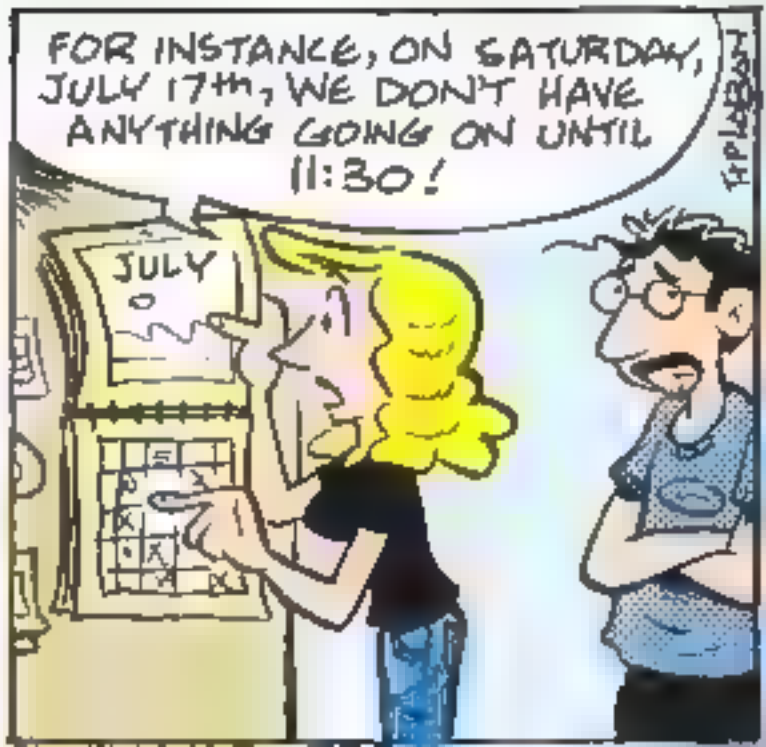


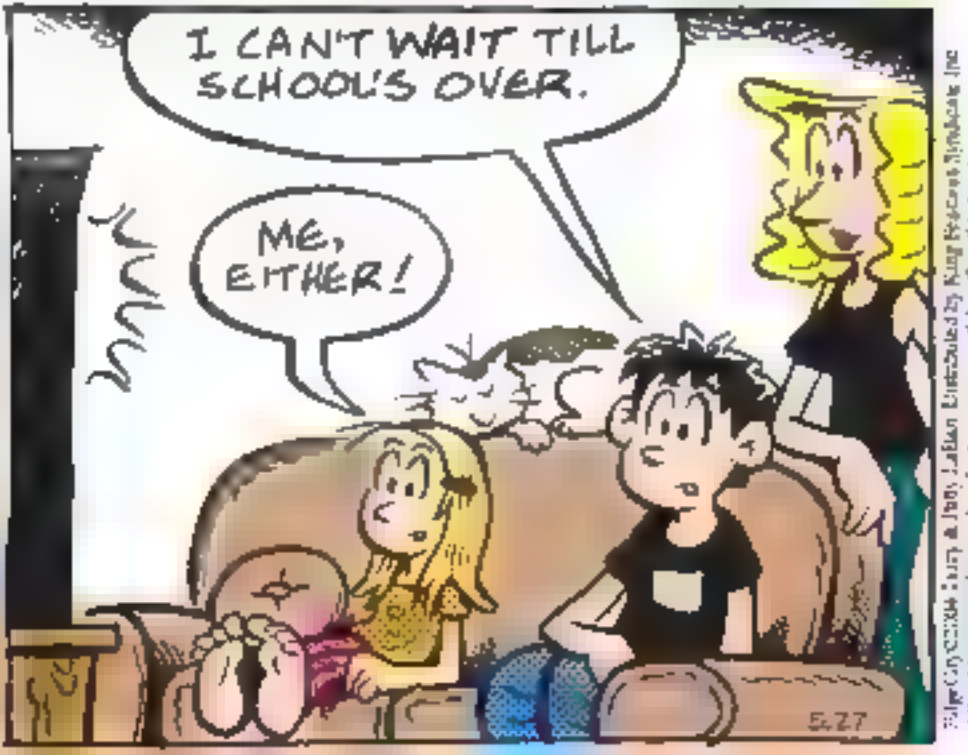

IT'S TOO NICE A DAY TO SIT IN THE HOUSE PLAYING VIDEO GAMES! TURN THAT OFF AND GO OUTSIDE!


THPLOBON
5.25

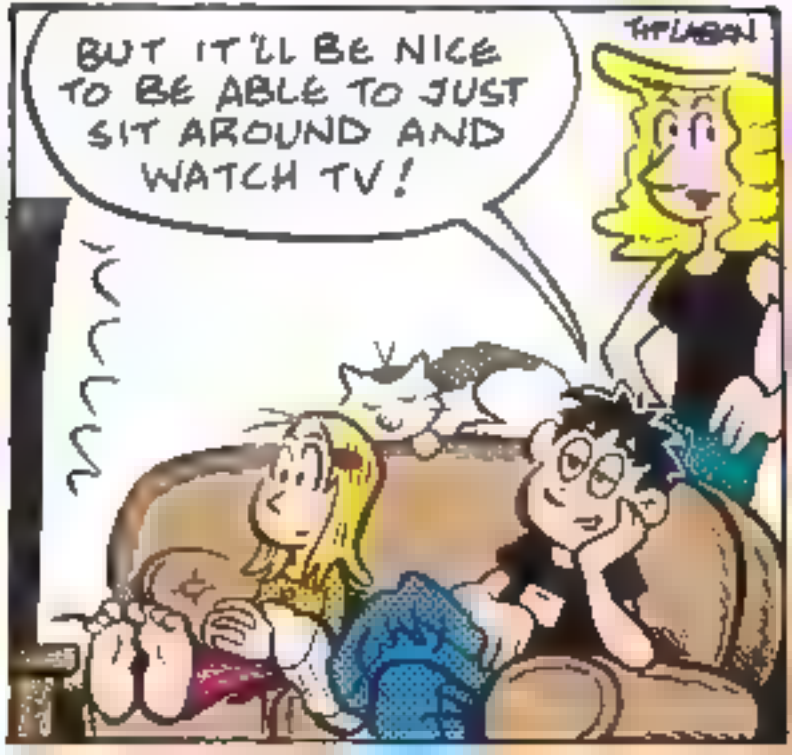

OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE IS REALLY FILLING UP!
I KNOW! IT LOOKS LIKE EVERY WEEKEND IS PACKED!
JULY

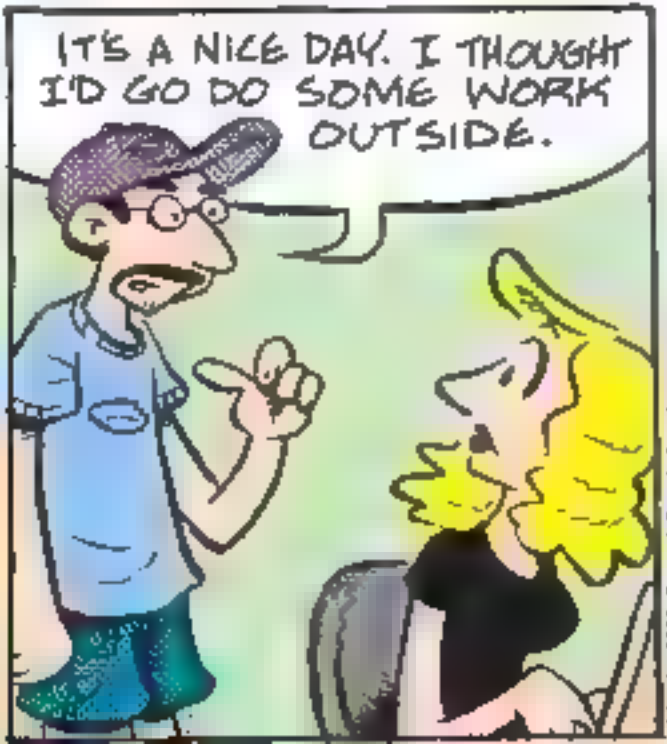
I HOPE WE'LL HAVE SOME TIME TO JUST HANG OUT AND RELAX.
OH, I THINK WE'LL HAVE PLENTY.
5.26


FOR INSTANCE, ON SATURDAY, JULY 17th, WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING GOING ON UNTIL 11:30!
JULY


I CAN'T WAIT TILL SCHOOL'S OVER.
ME, EITHER!

GOT SOME PLANS, HAVE YOU?
NOT REALLY.


BUT IT'LL BE NICE TO BE ABLE TO JUST SIT AROUND AND WATCH TV!



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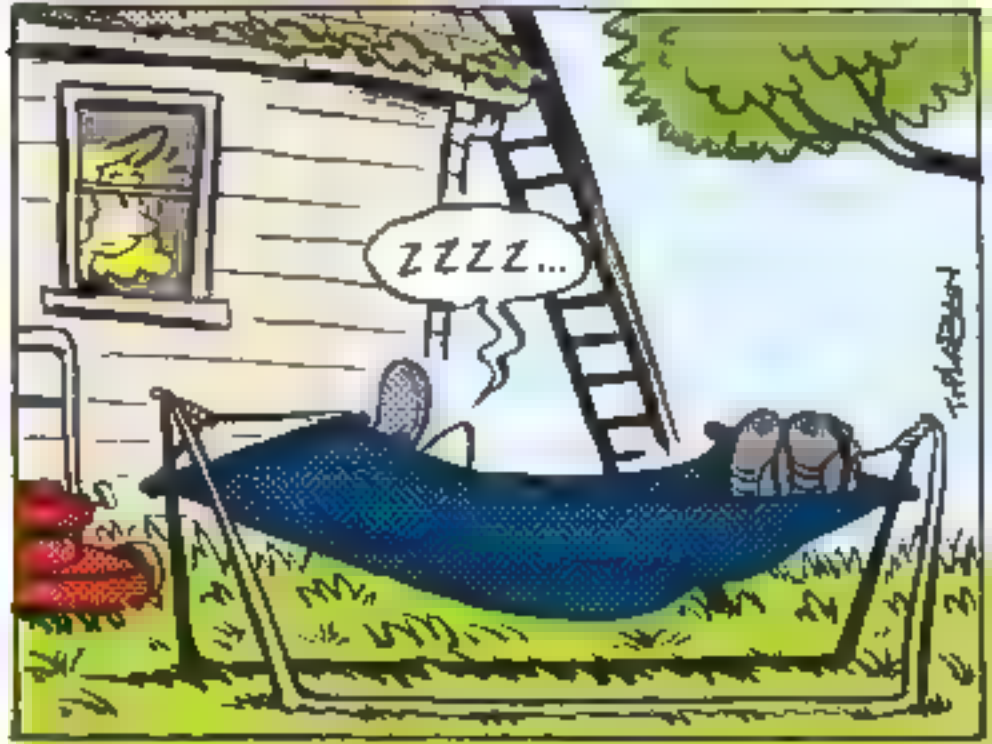
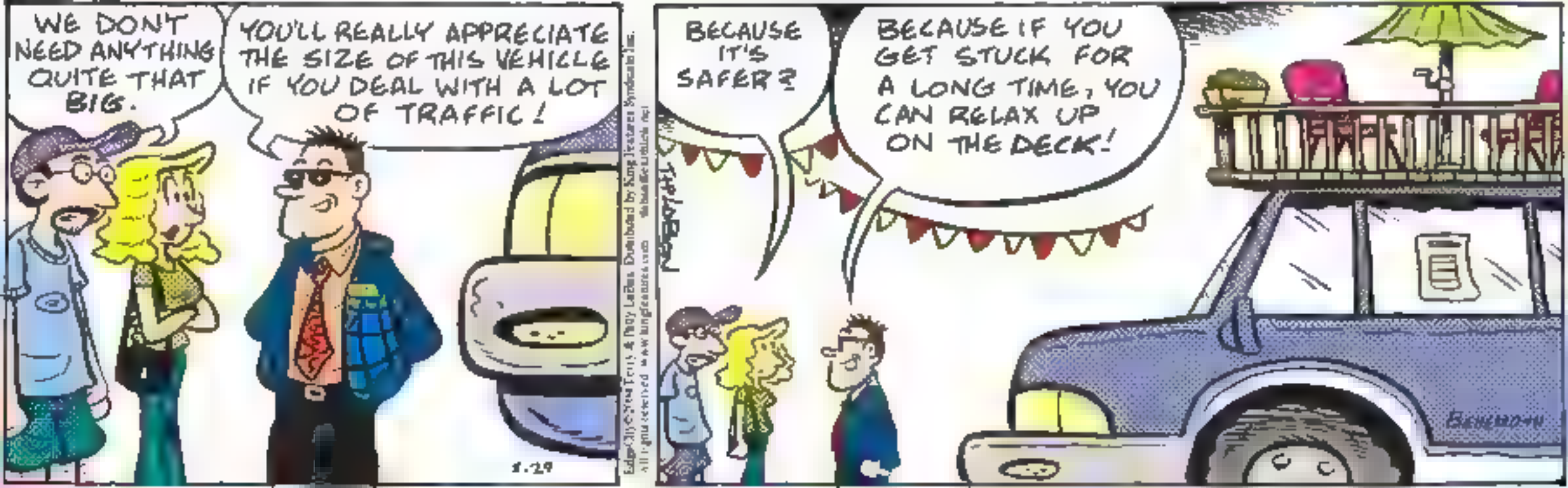
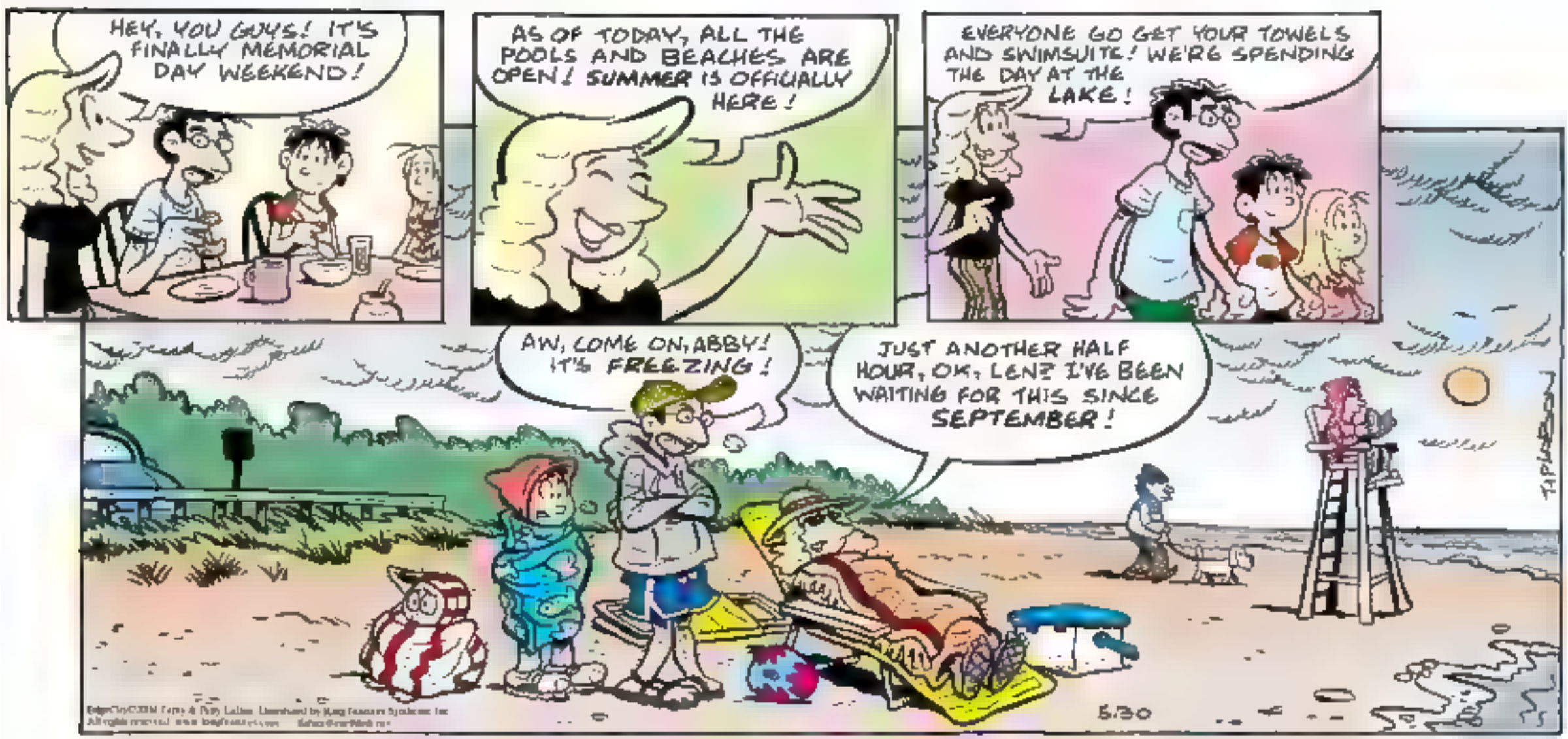
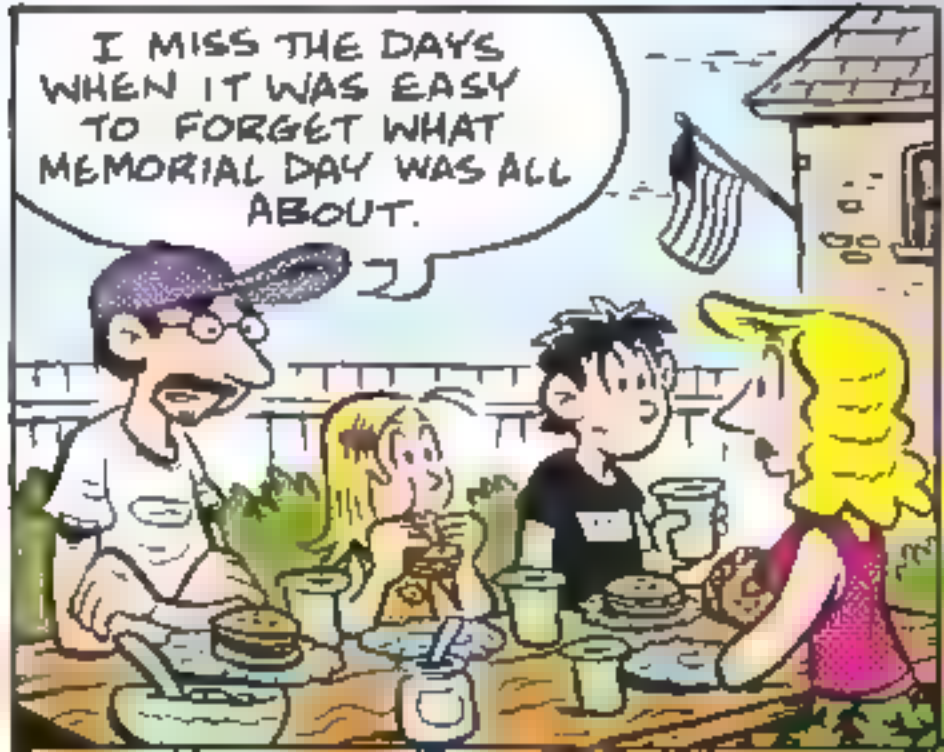


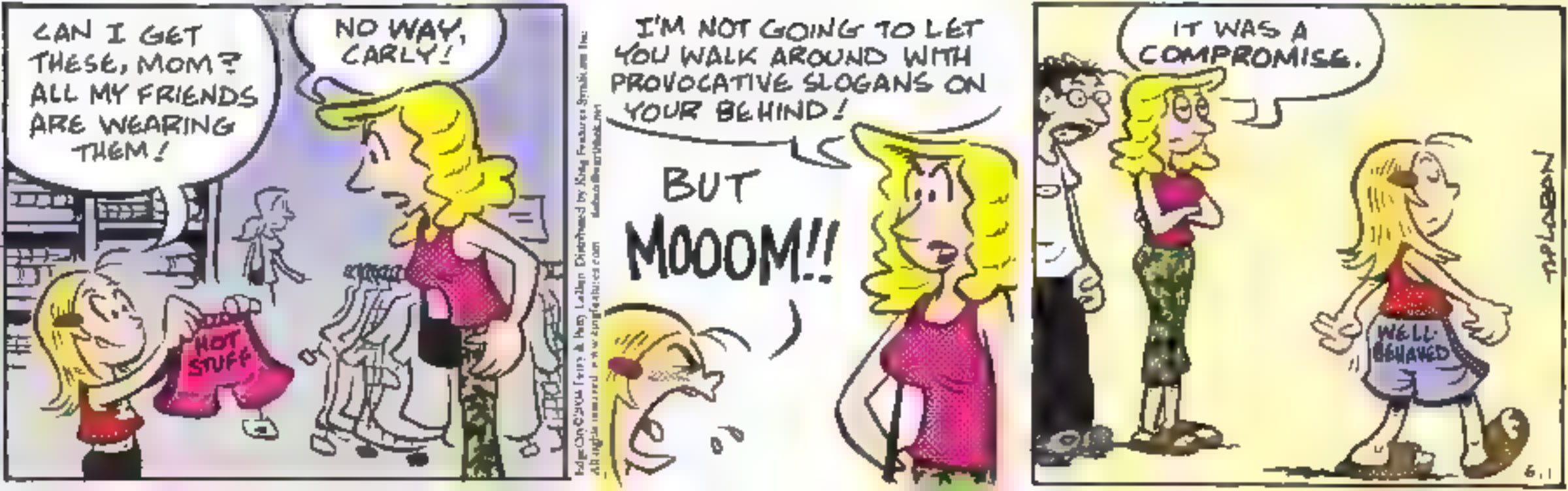

WE DON'T NEED ANYTHING QUITE THAT BIG.
YOU'LL REALLY APPRECIATE THE SIZE OF THIS VEHICLE IF YOU DEAL WITH A LOT OF TRAFFIC!
BECAUSE IT'S SAFER?
BECAUSE IF YOU GET STUCK FOR A LONG TIME, YOU CAN RELAX UP ON THE DECK!

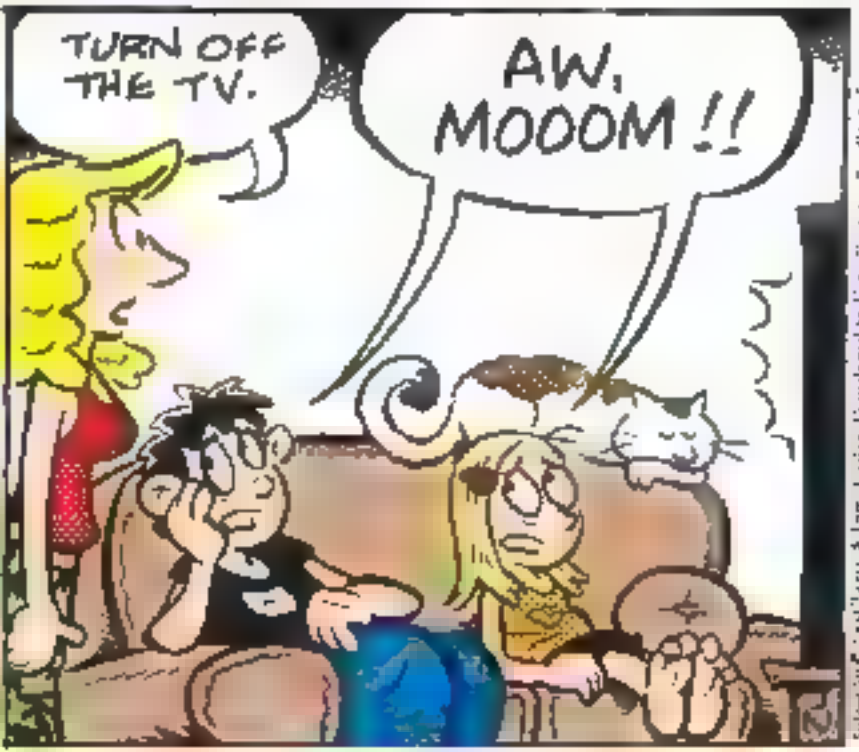

HEY, YOU GUYS! IT'S FINALLY MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND!
AS OF TODAY, ALL THE POOLS AND BEACHES ARE OPEN! SUMMER IS OFFICIALLY HERE!
EVERYONE GO GET YOUR TOWELS AND SWIMSUITS! WE'RE SPENDING THE DAY AT THE LAKE!
AW, COME ON, ABBY! IT'S FREEZING!
JUST ANOTHER HALF HOUR, OK, LENZ I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS SINCE SEPTEMBER!
5/30

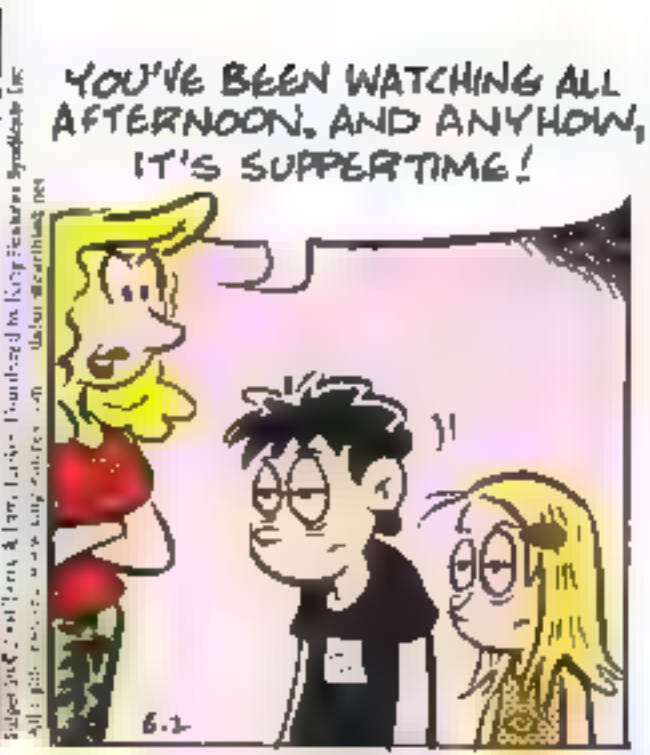
...MORE U.S. TROOPS KILLED IN IRAQ TODAY...

SIGH!
CLICK!

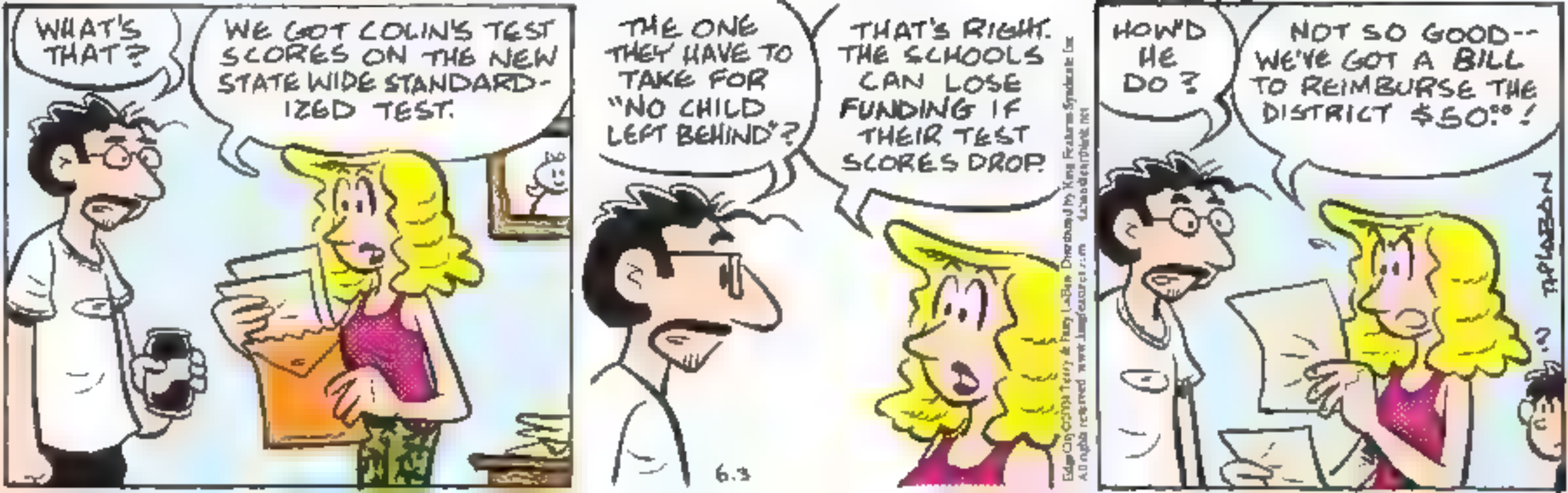

I MISS THE DAYS WHEN IT WAS EASY TO FORGET WHAT MEMORIAL DAY WAS ALL ABOUT.


CAN I GET THESE, MOM? ALL MY FRIENDS ARE WEARING THEM!
NO WAY, CARLY!
HOT STUFF
I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU WALK AROUND WITH PROVOCATIVE SLOGANS ON YOUR BEHIND!
BUT MOOOM!!
IT WAS A COMPROMISE.
WELL-BEHAVED

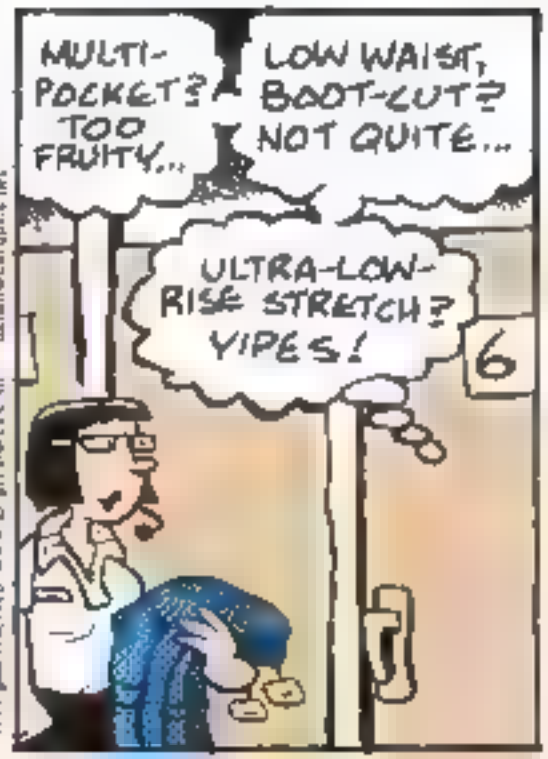

TURN OFF THE TV.
AW, MOOOM!!

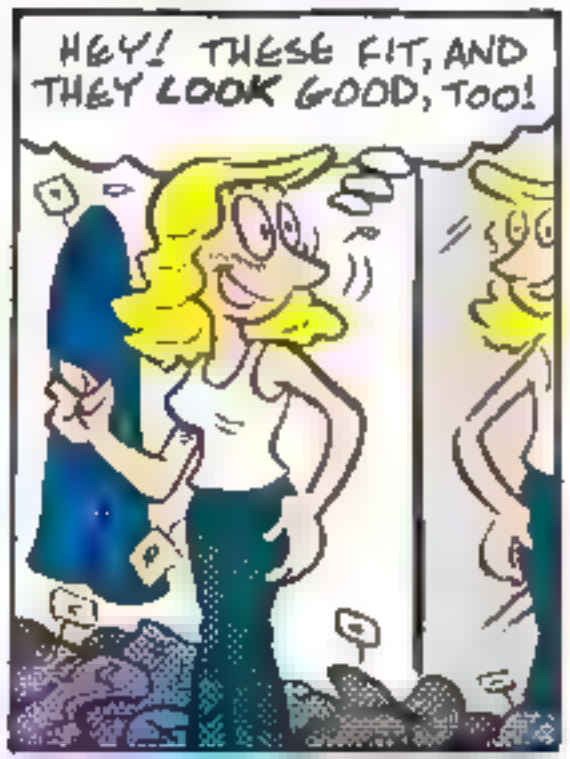

YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING ALL AFTERNOON, AND ANYHOW, IT'S SUPPERTIME!

I READ BEING OVERWEIGHT IS NOW AMERICA'S BIGGEST HEALTH RISK!
HARD TO BELIEVE, ISN'T IT?
GOBBLE GOBBLE MUNCH MUNCH!

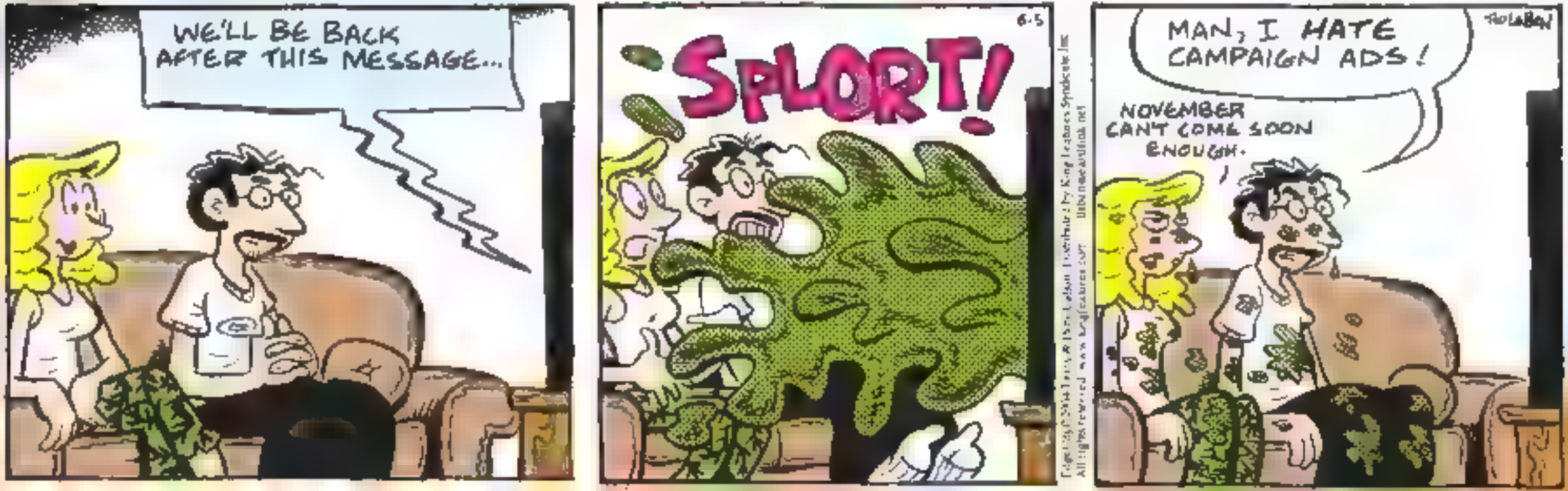

WHAT'S THAT?
WE GOT COLIN'S TEST SCORES ON THE NEW STATE WIDE STANDARDIZED TEST.
THE ONE THEY HAVE TO TAKE FOR "NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND"?
THAT'S RIGHT. THE SCHOOLS CAN LOSE FUNDING IF THEIR TEST SCORES DROP.
6.3
HOW'D HE DO?
NOT SO GOOD-- WE'VE GOT A BILL TO REIMBURSE THE DISTRICT $50.00!
THAVEN

RELAXED FIT? TOO DOWDY...
HEM TIE? NOT MY THING...

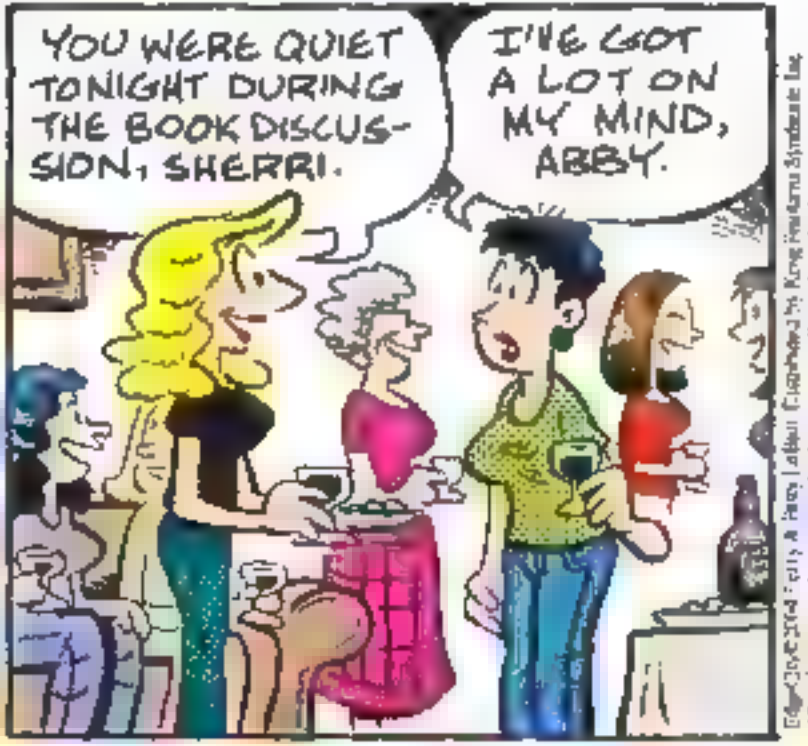

MULTI-POCKET? TOO FRUITY...
LOW WAIST, BOOT-CUT? NOT QUITE...
ULTRA-LOW-RISE STRETCH? YIPES!
6


HEY! THESE FIT, AND THEY LOOK GOOD, TOO!

YES, I'M SURE YOUR JEANS LOOK FINE. WHY DO YOU KEEP ASKING?
I BOUGHT 15 PAIRS.
6-4


WE'LL BE BACK AFTER THIS MESSAGE...
SPLORT!
MAN, I HATE CAMPAIGN ADS!
NOVEMBER CAN'T COME SOON ENOUGH.

YOU'RE STILL PUSHING THE BALL, COLIN.
THROW FROM THE SIDE AND DOWN. LIKE THIS!
AND KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE TARGET, OK?
HELLO?
WOP!
NO, NO-- THAT WAS GOOD...



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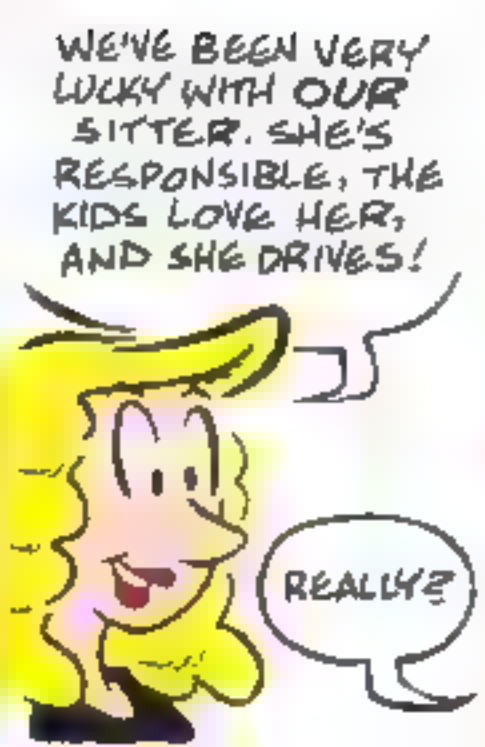
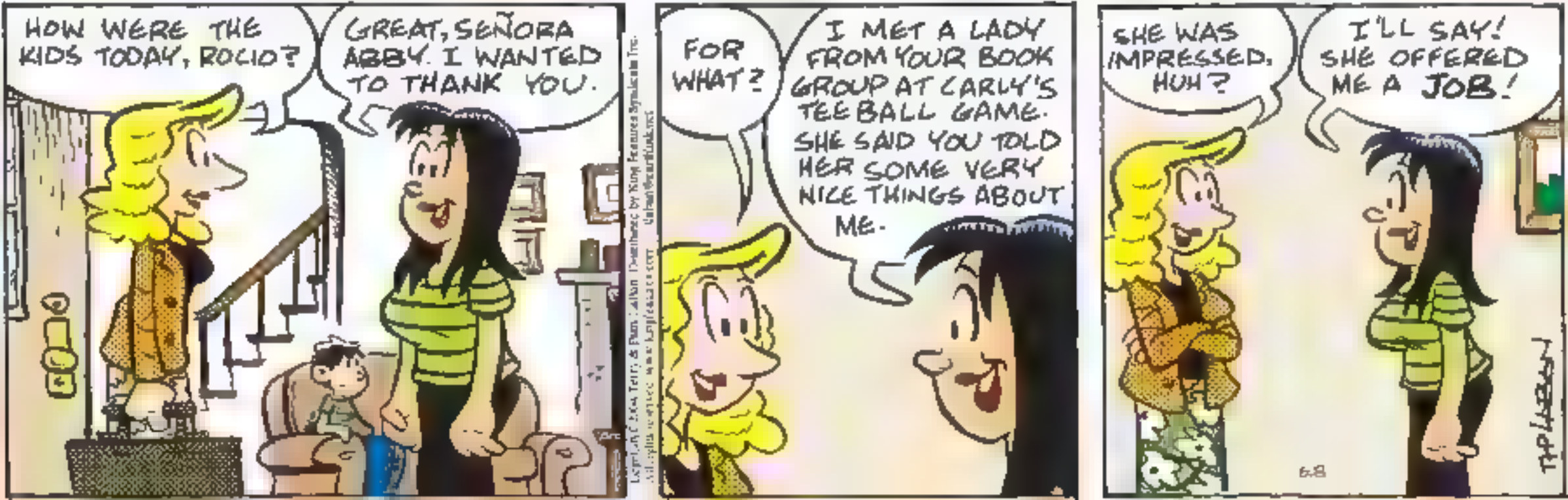
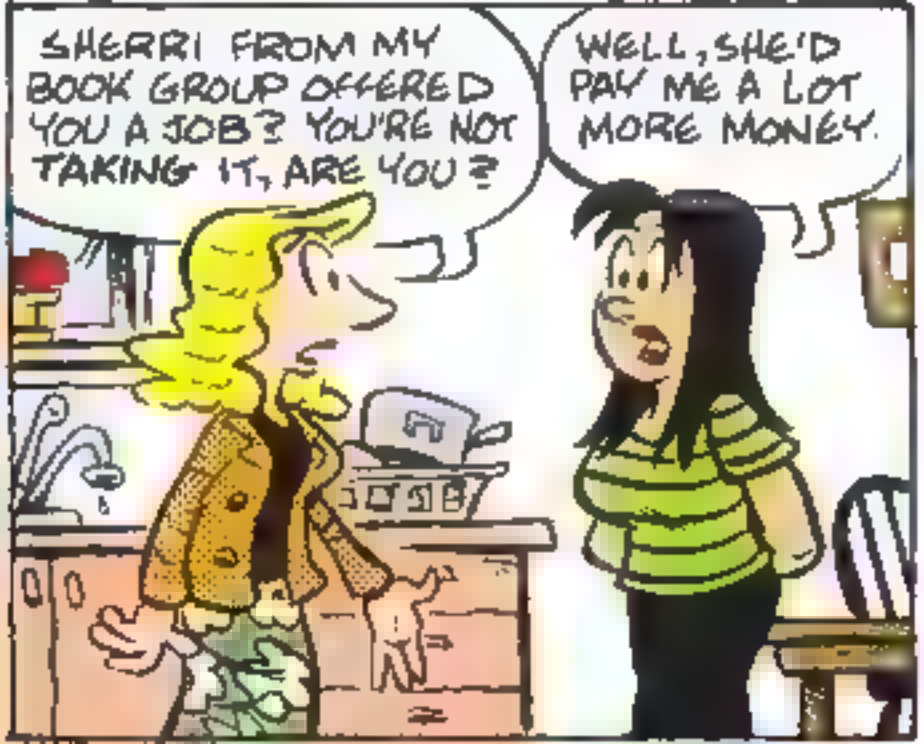
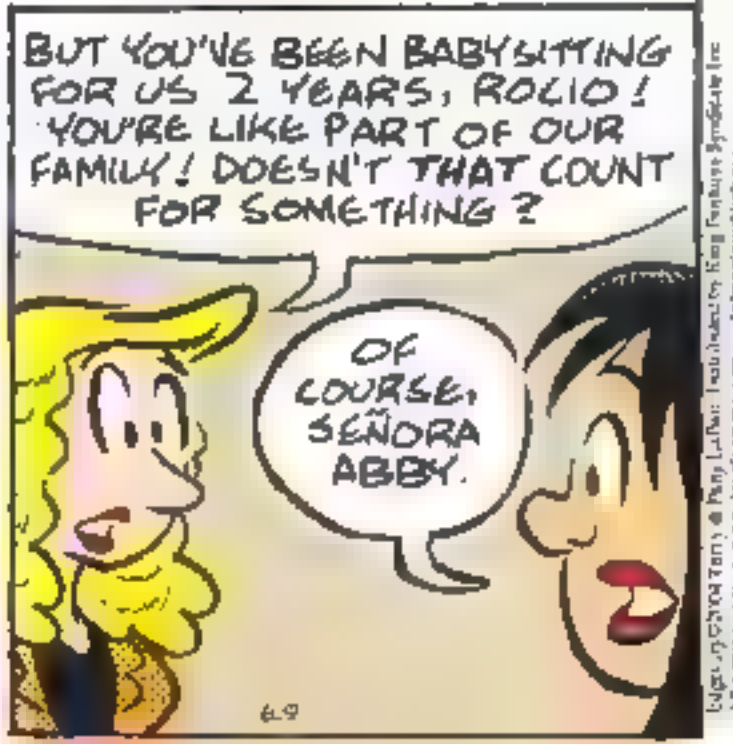
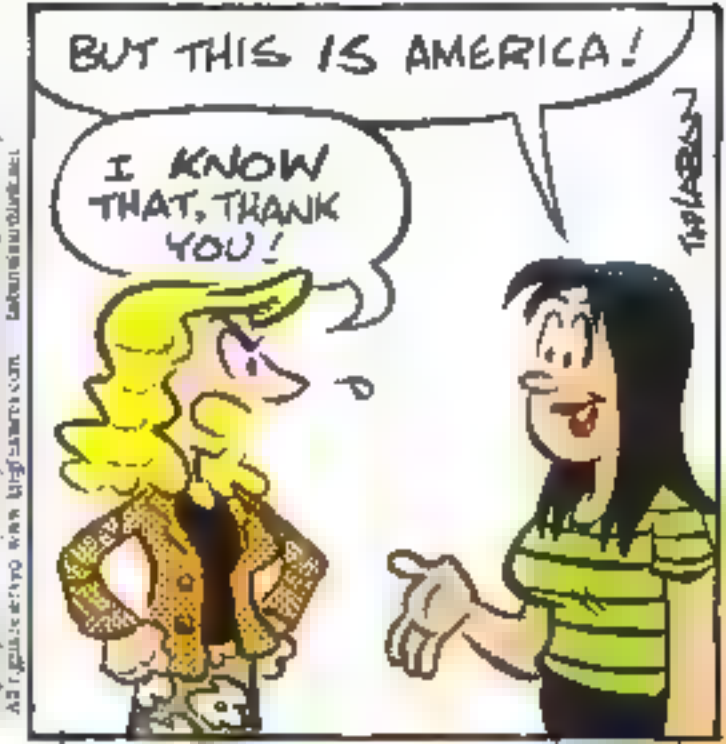
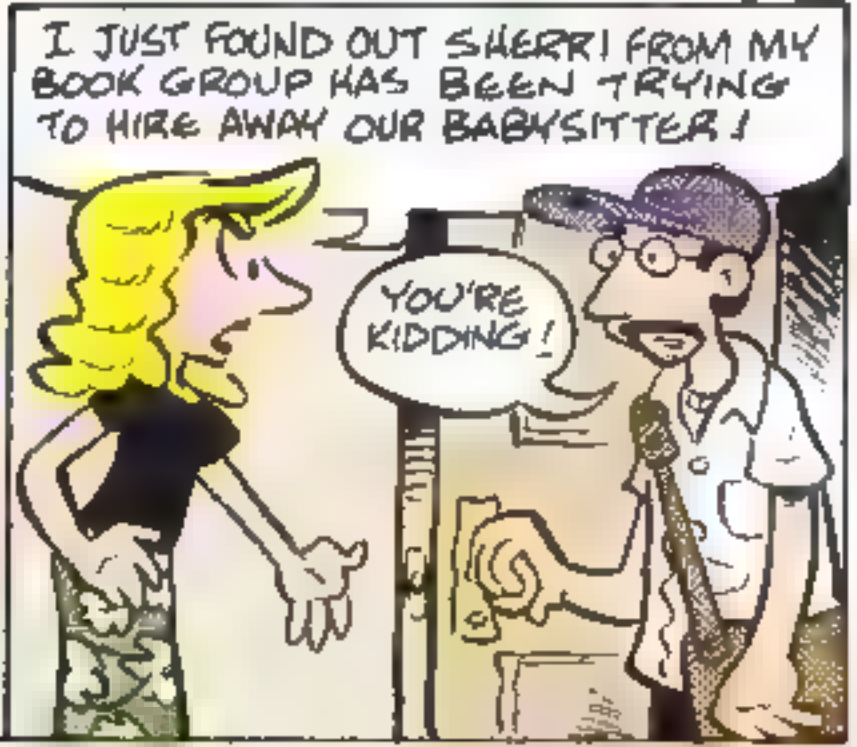



HOW WERE THE KIDS TODAY, ROCIO?
GREAT, SEÑORA ABBY. I WANTED TO THANK YOU.
FOR WHAT?
I MET A LADY FROM YOUR BOOK GROUP AT CARLY'S TEEBALL GAME. SHE SAID YOU TOLD HER SOME VERY NICE THINGS ABOUT ME.
SHE WAS IMPRESSED, HUH?
I'LL SAY! SHE OFFERED ME A JOB!


SHERRI FROM MY BOOK GROUP OFFERED YOU A JOB? YOU'RE NOT TAKING IT, ARE YOU?
WELL, SHE'D PAY ME A LOT MORE MONEY.


BUT YOU'VE BEEN BABYSITTING FOR US 2 YEARS, ROLIO! YOU'RE LIKE PART OF OUR FAMILY! DOESN'T THAT COUNT FOR SOMETHING?
OF COURSE, SEÑORA ABBY.


BUT THIS IS AMERICA!
I KNOW THAT, THANK YOU!



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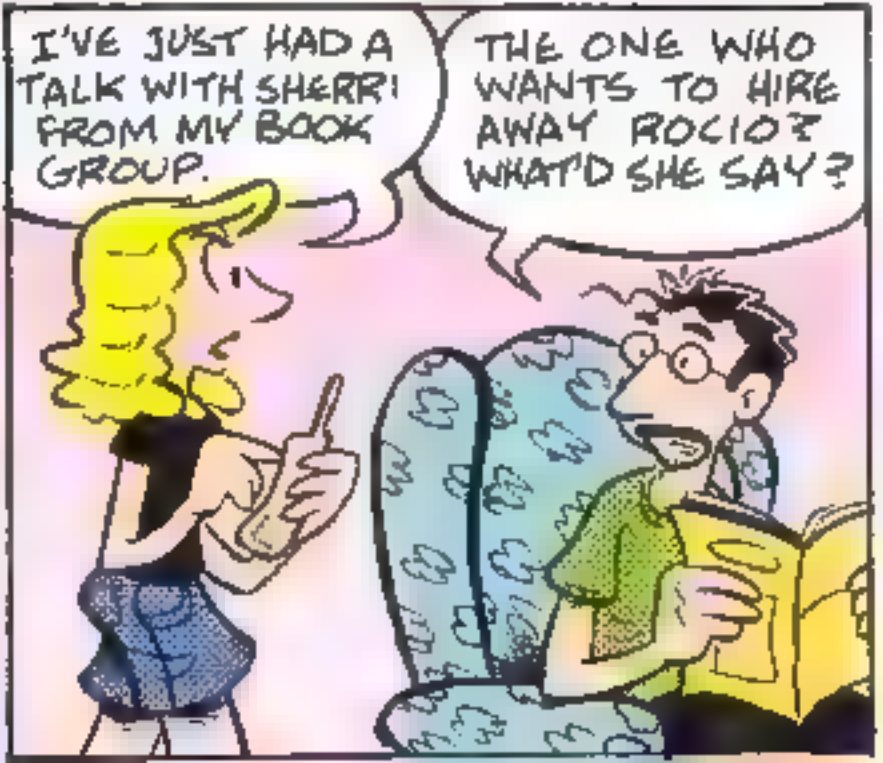
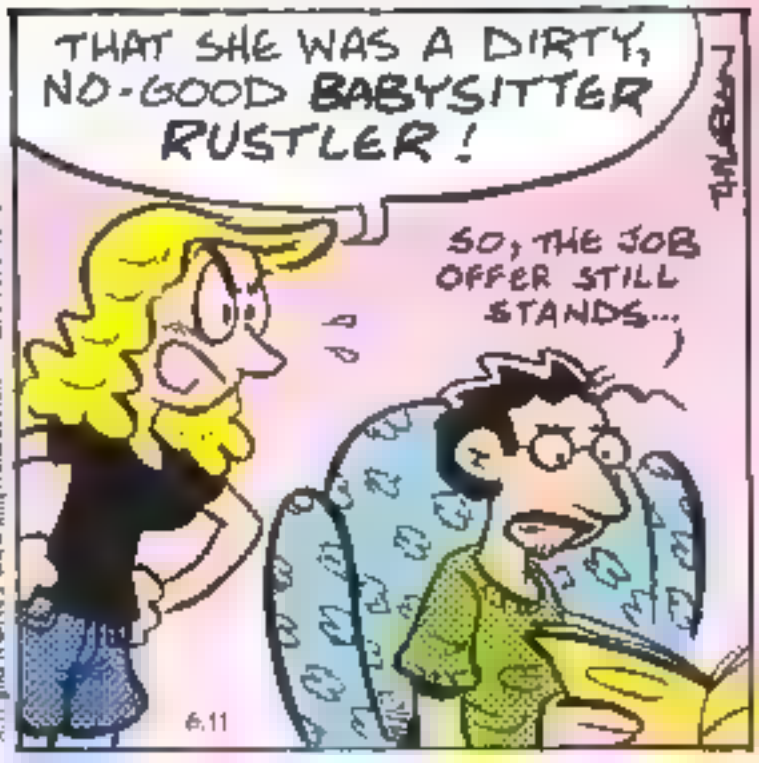
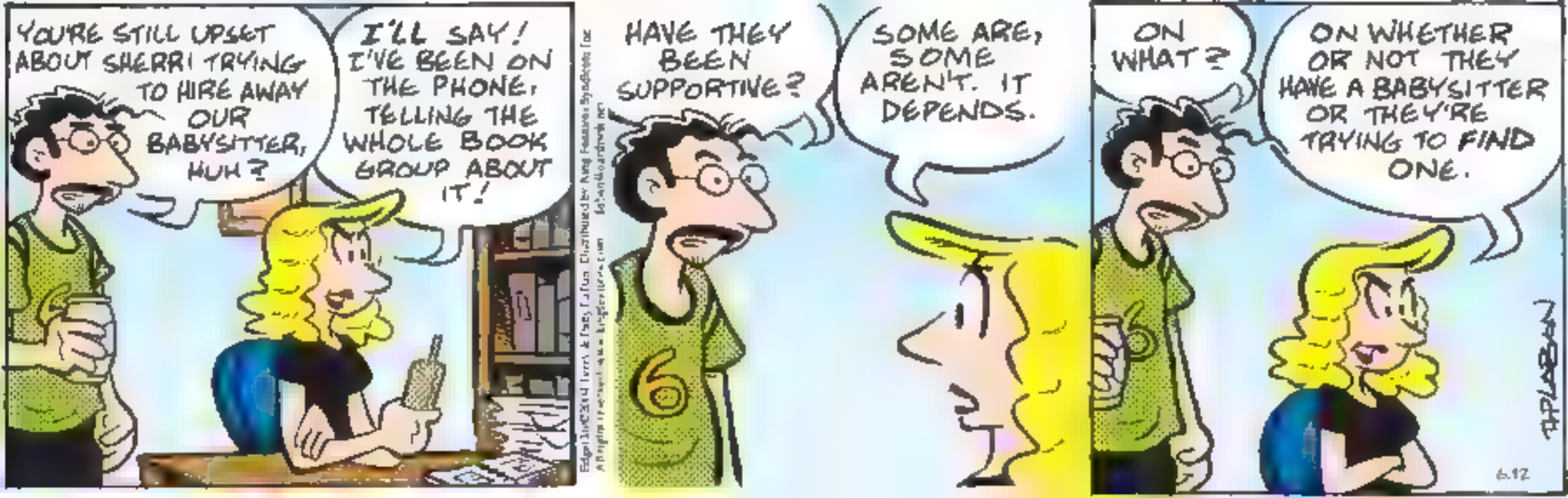
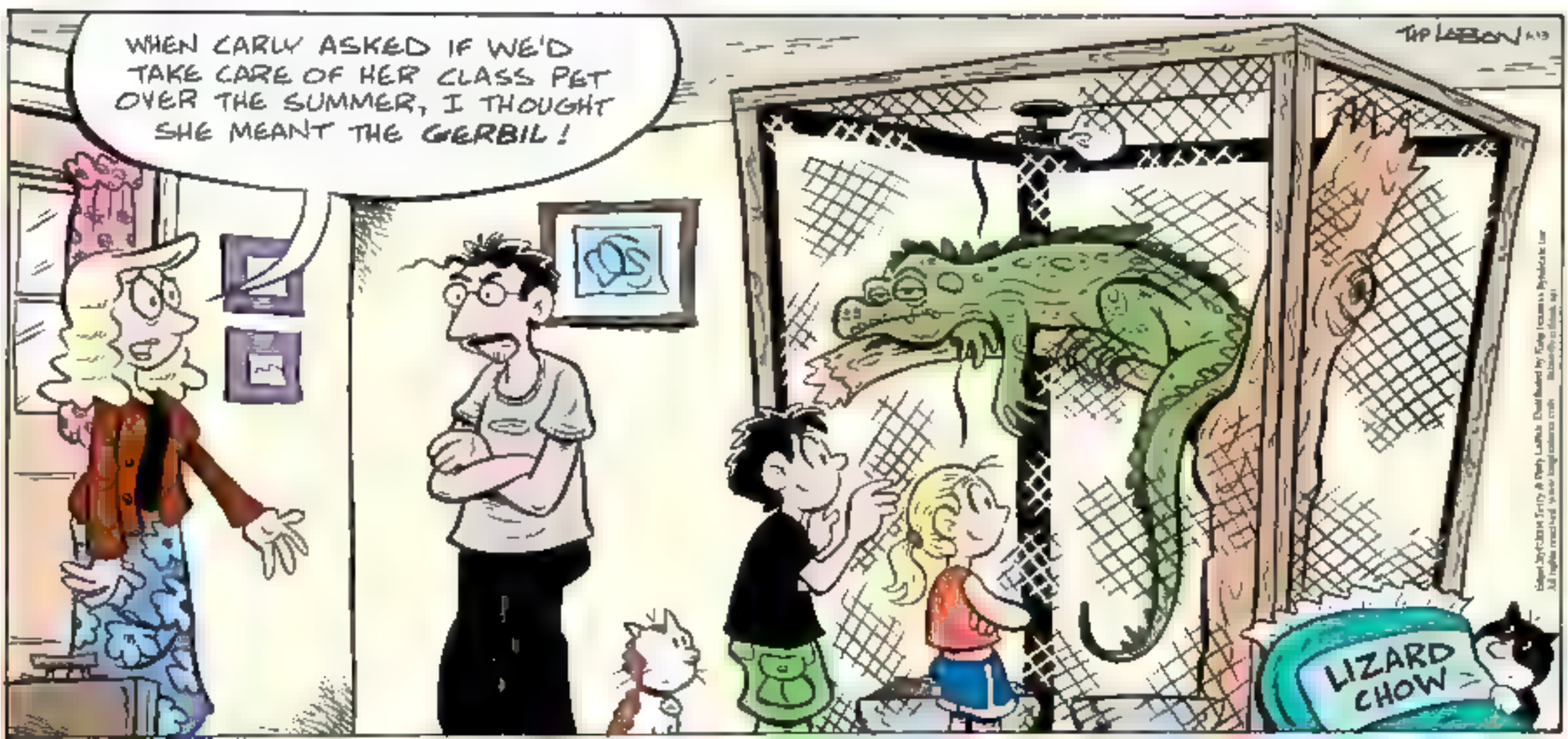
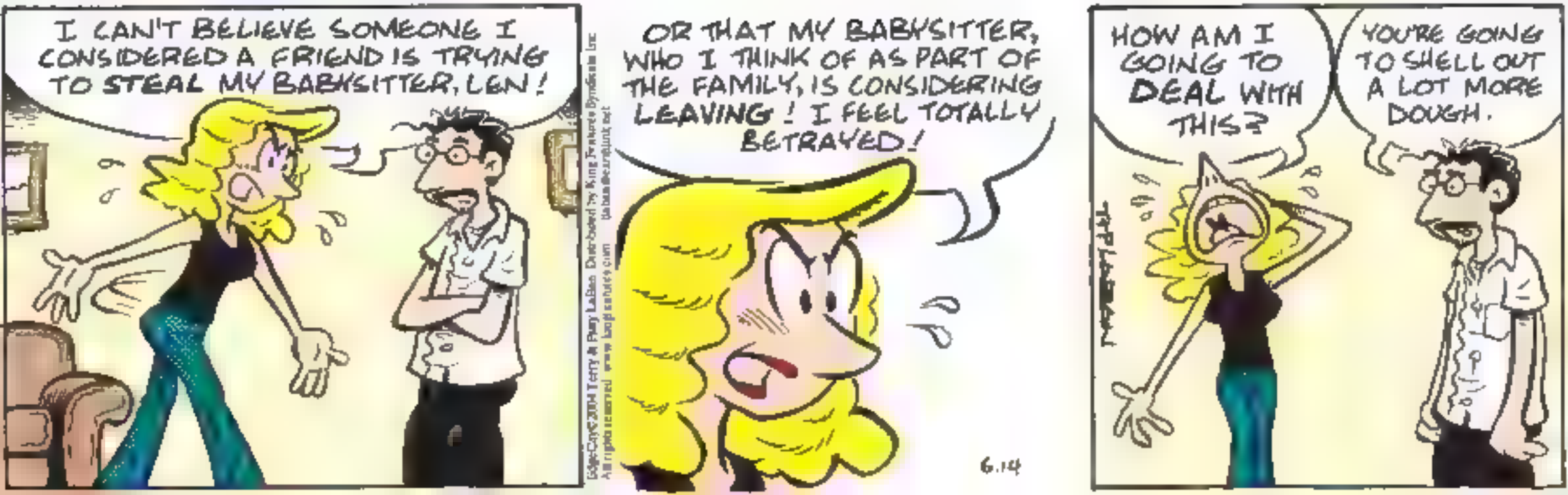

I'VE JUST HAD A TALK WITH SHERRI FROM MY BOOK GROUP.
THE ONE WHO WANTS TO HIRE AWAY ROCIO? WHAT'D SHE SAY?

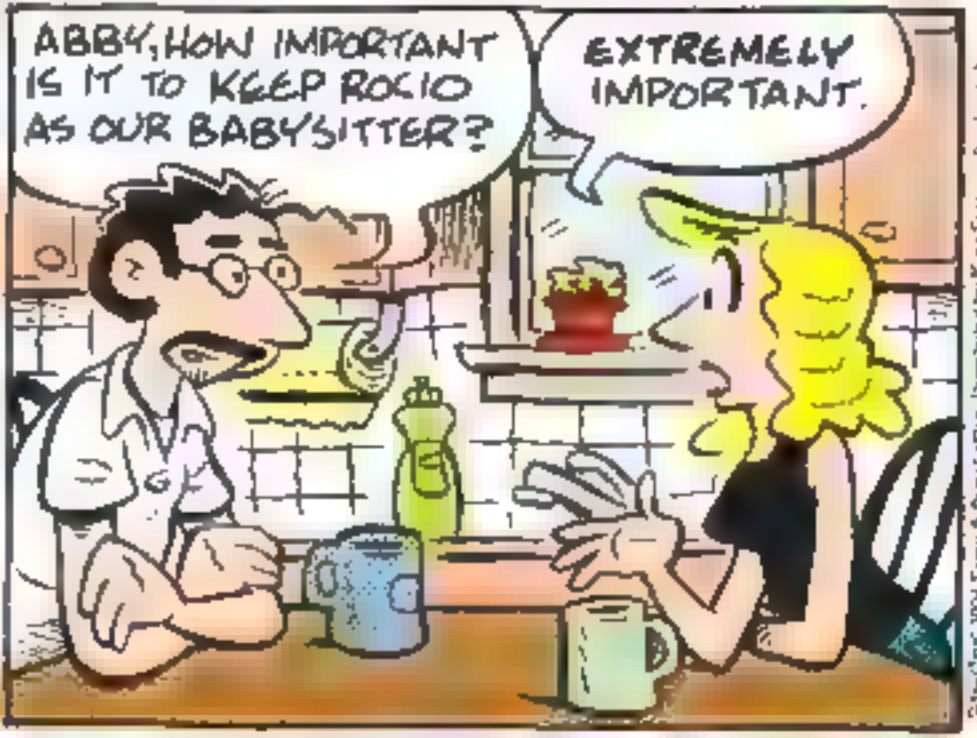
THAT SHE WAS SORRY SHE DIDN'T TALK TO ME FIRST, AND THAT SHE HOPED IT WOULDN'T RUIN OUR FRIENDSHIP.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

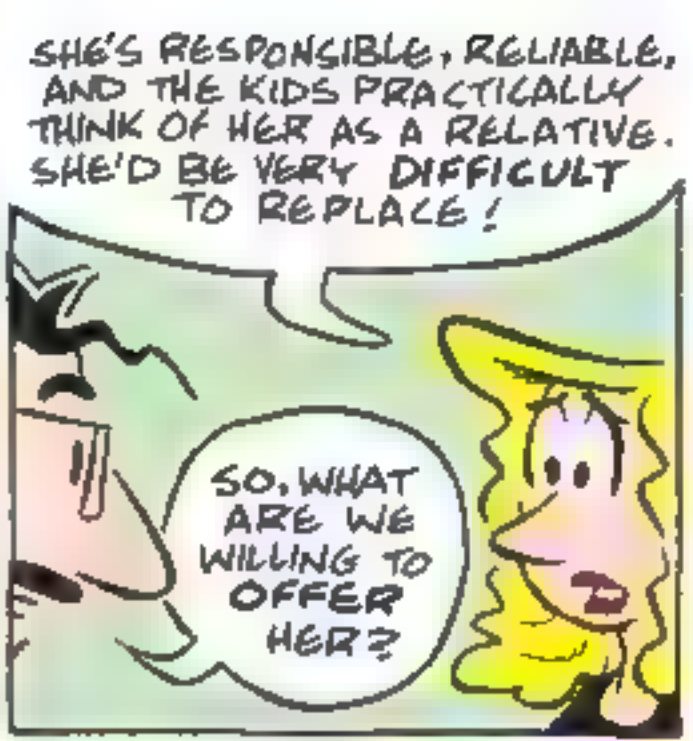

THAT SHE WAS A DIRTY, NO-GOOD BABYSITTER RUSTLER!
SO, THE JOB OFFER STILL STANDS...
6.11


YOU'RE STILL UPSET ABOUT SHERRI TRYING TO HIRE AWAY OUR BABYSITTER, HUH?
I'LL SAY! I'VE BEEN ON THE PHONE, TELLING THE WHOLE BOOK GROUP ABOUT IT!
HAVE THEY BEEN SUPPORTIVE?
SOME ARE, SOME AREN'T. IT DEPENDS.
ON WHAT?
ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAVE A BABYSITTER OR THEY'RE TRYING TO FIND ONE.
6.12

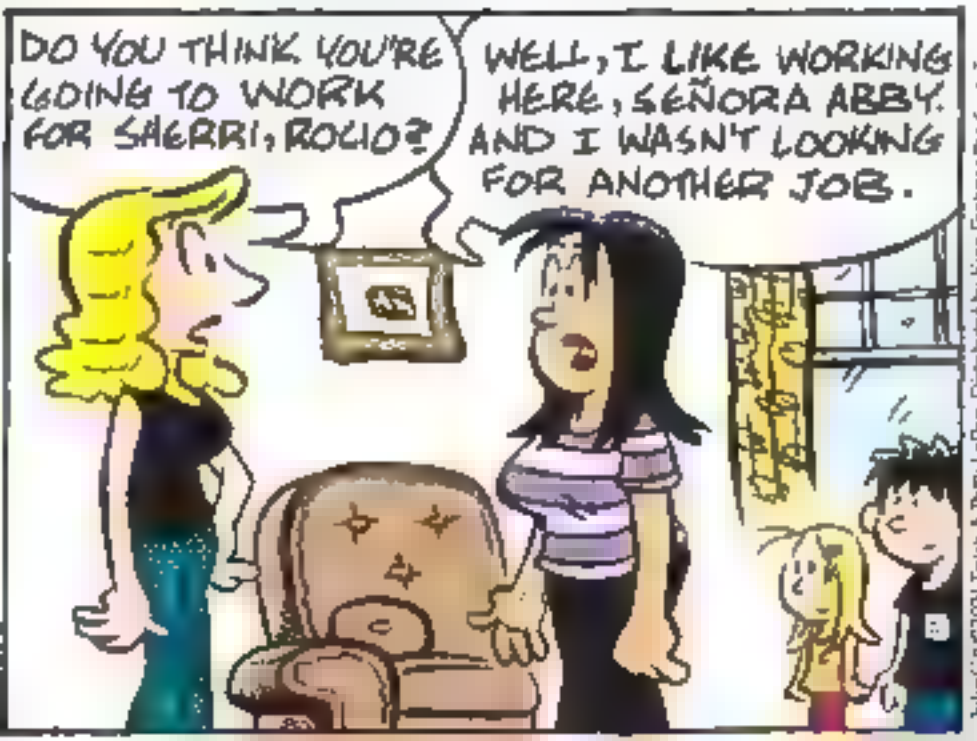

WHEN CARLY ASKED IF WE'D TAKE CARE OF HER CLASS PET OVER THE SUMMER, I THOUGHT SHE MEANT THE GERBIL!
TIM LABON
LIZARD CHOW


I CAN'T BELIEVE SOMEONE I CONSIDERED A FRIEND IS TRYING TO STEAL MY BABYSITTER, LEN!
OR THAT MY BABYSITTER, WHO I THINK OF AS PART OF THE FAMILY, IS CONSIDERING LEAVING! I FEEL TOTALLY BETRAYED!
6.14
HOW AM I GOING TO DEAL WITH THIS?
YOU'RE GOING TO SHELL OUT A LOT MORE DOUGH.


ABBY, HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO KEEP ROCIO AS OUR BABYSITTER?
EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.


SHE'S RESPONSIBLE, RELIABLE, AND THE KIDS PRACTICALLY THINK OF HER AS A RELATIVE. SHE'D BE VERY DIFFICULT TO REPLACE!
SO, WHAT ARE WE WILLING TO OFFER HER?

ANYTHING!
WELL, I THINK WE SHOULD START LOWER.
TIPLADEN
6-15



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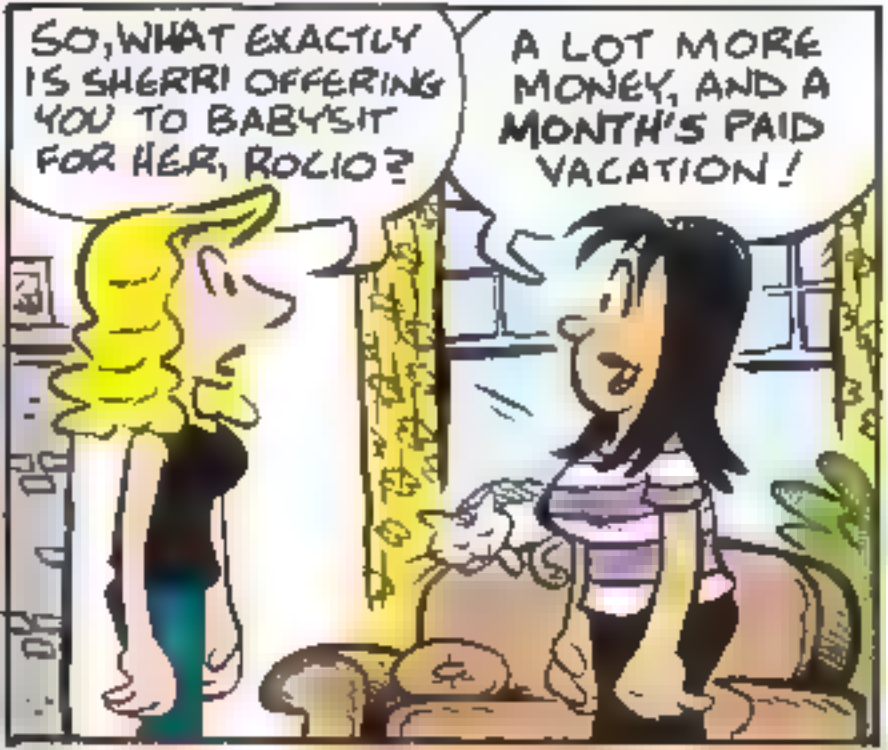
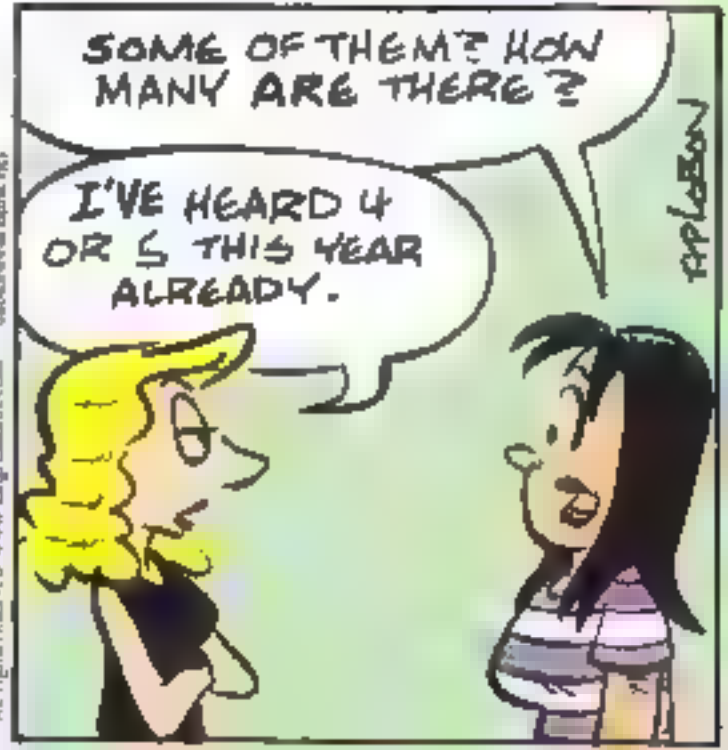
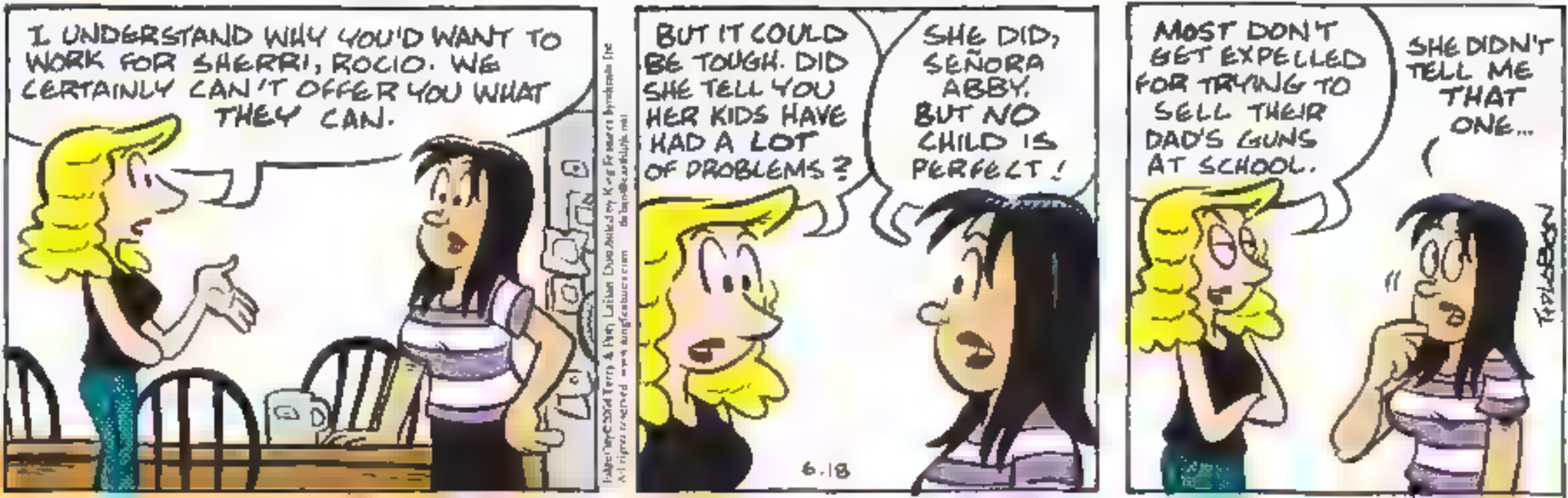
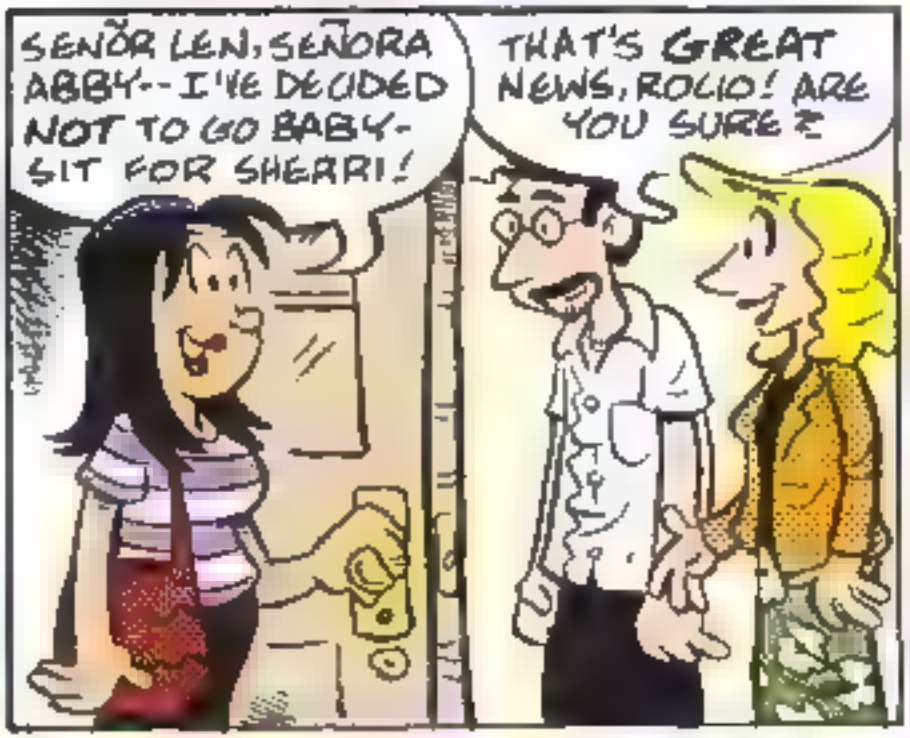
6.16


SO, WHAT EXACTLY IS SHERRI OFFERING YOU TO BABYSIT FOR HER, ROLIO?
A LOT MORE MONEY, AND A MONTH'S PAID VACATION!

WE CAN'T MATCH THAT! BUT BEFORE YOU DECIDE, YOU SHOULD TALK TO SOME OF HER FORMER BABY-SITTERS.
6.17


SOME OF THEM? HOW MANY ARE THERE?
I'VE HEARD 4 OR 5 THIS YEAR ALREADY.


I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D WANT TO WORK FOR SHERRI, ROCIO. WE CERTAINLY CAN'T OFFER YOU WHAT THEY CAN.
BUT IT COULD BE TOUGH. DID SHE TELL YOU HER KIDS HAVE HAD A LOT OF PROBLEMS?
SHE DID, SEÑORA ABBY. BUT NO CHILD IS PERFECT!
6.18
MOST DON'T GET EXPELLED FOR TRYING TO SELL THEIR DAD'S GUNS AT SCHOOL.
SHE DIDN'T TELL ME THAT ONE...
TAYLOR



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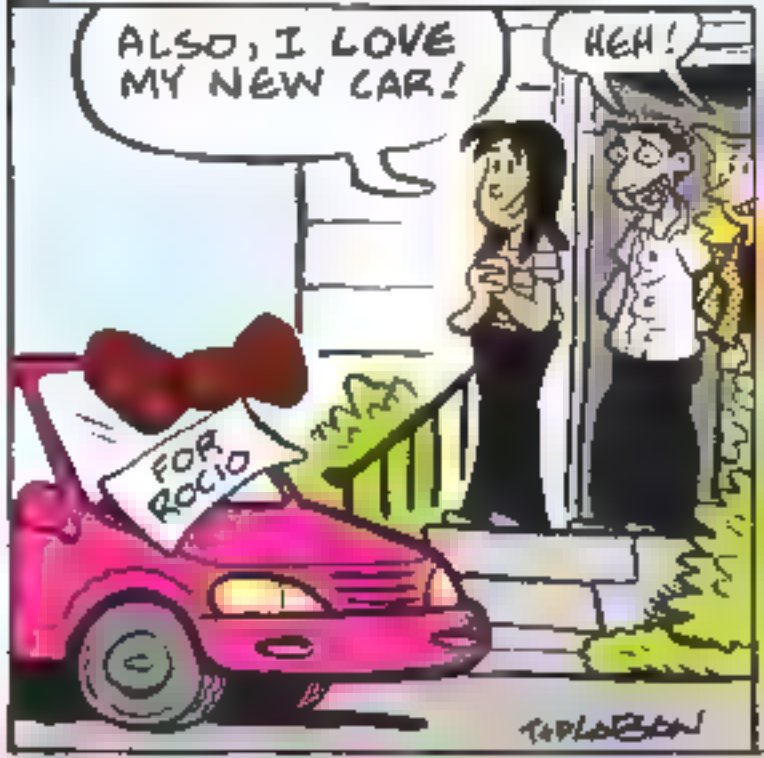
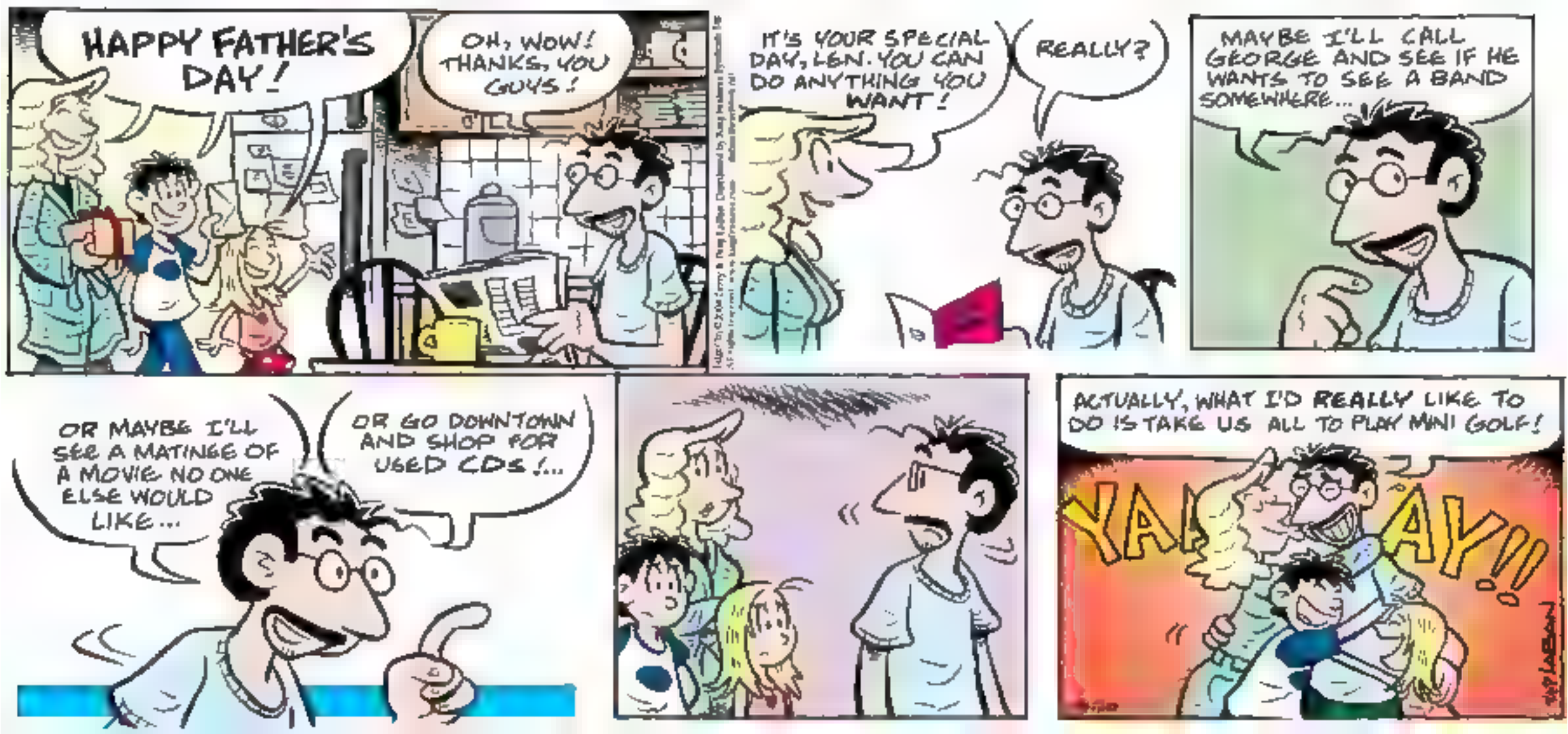
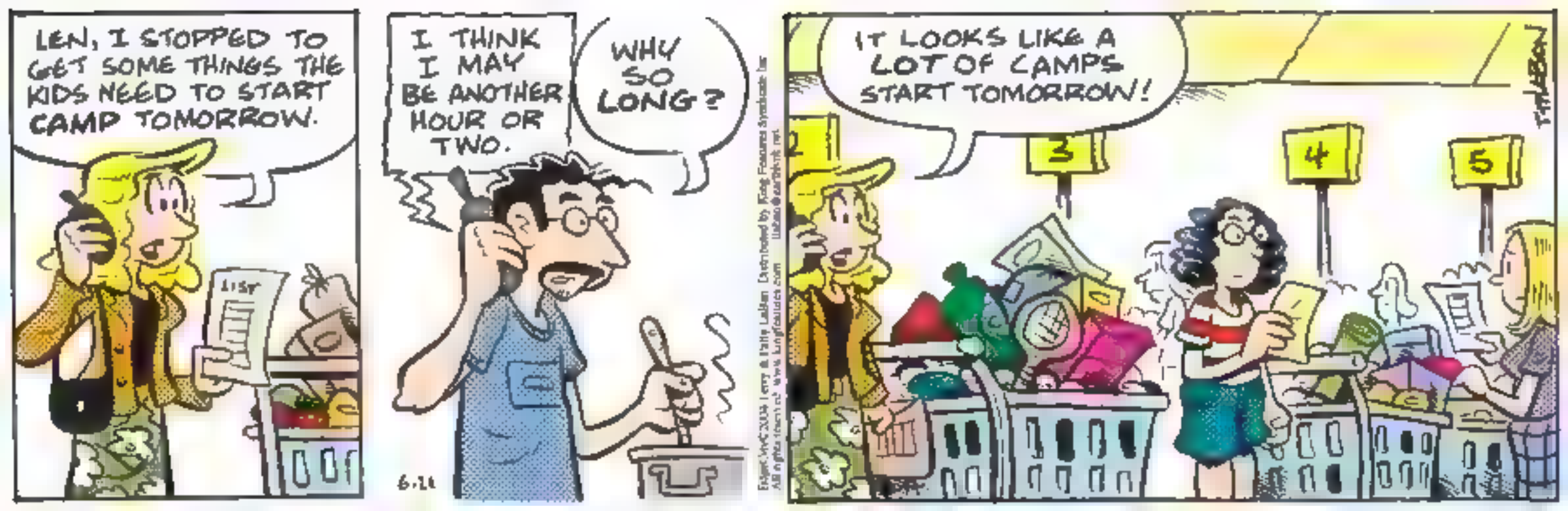
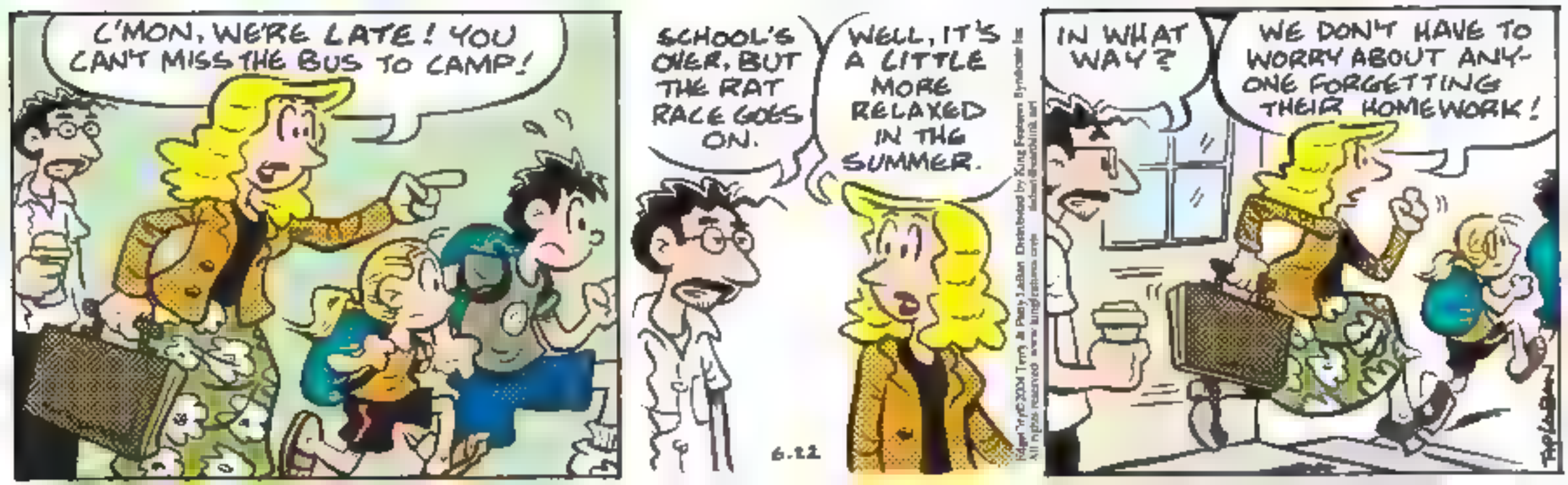
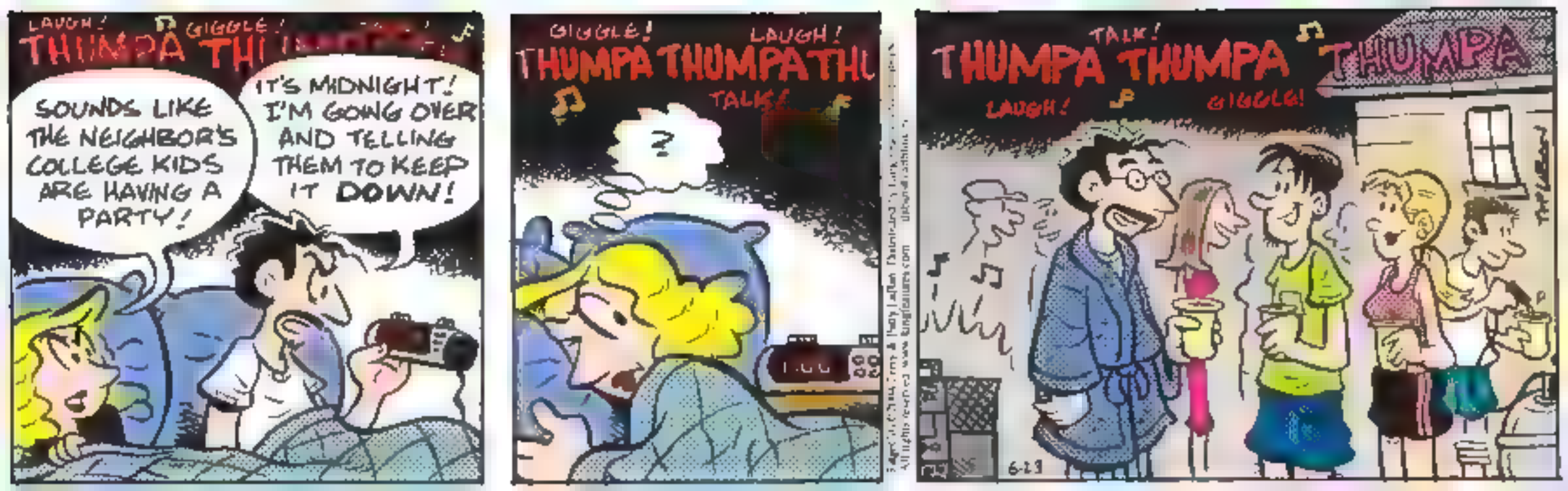
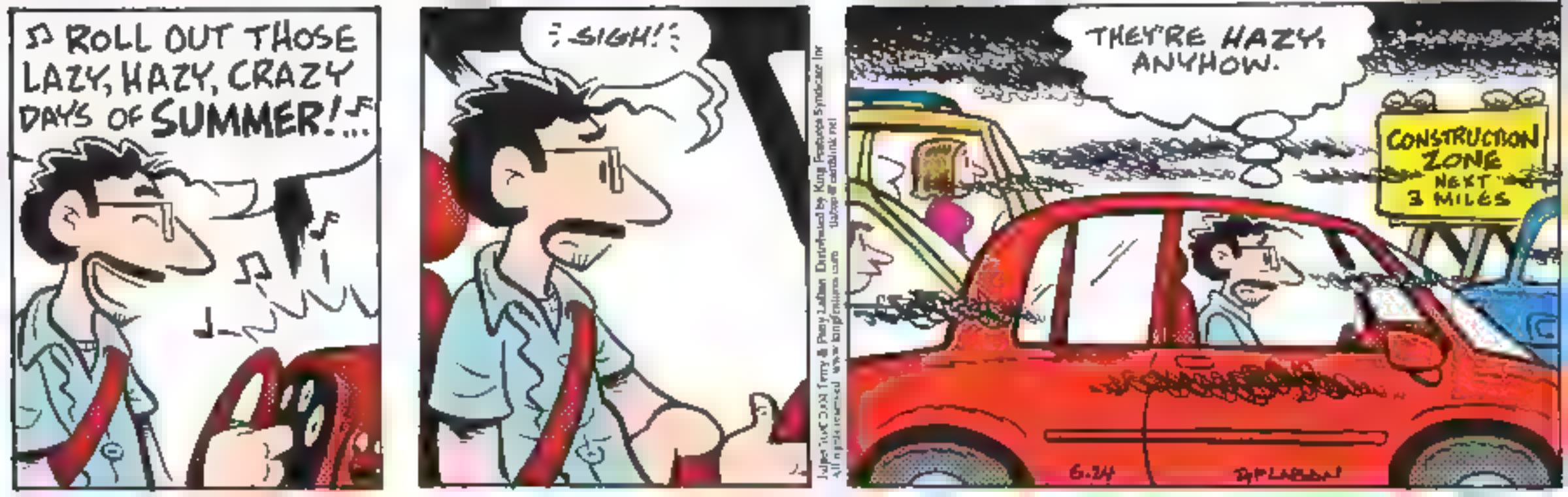


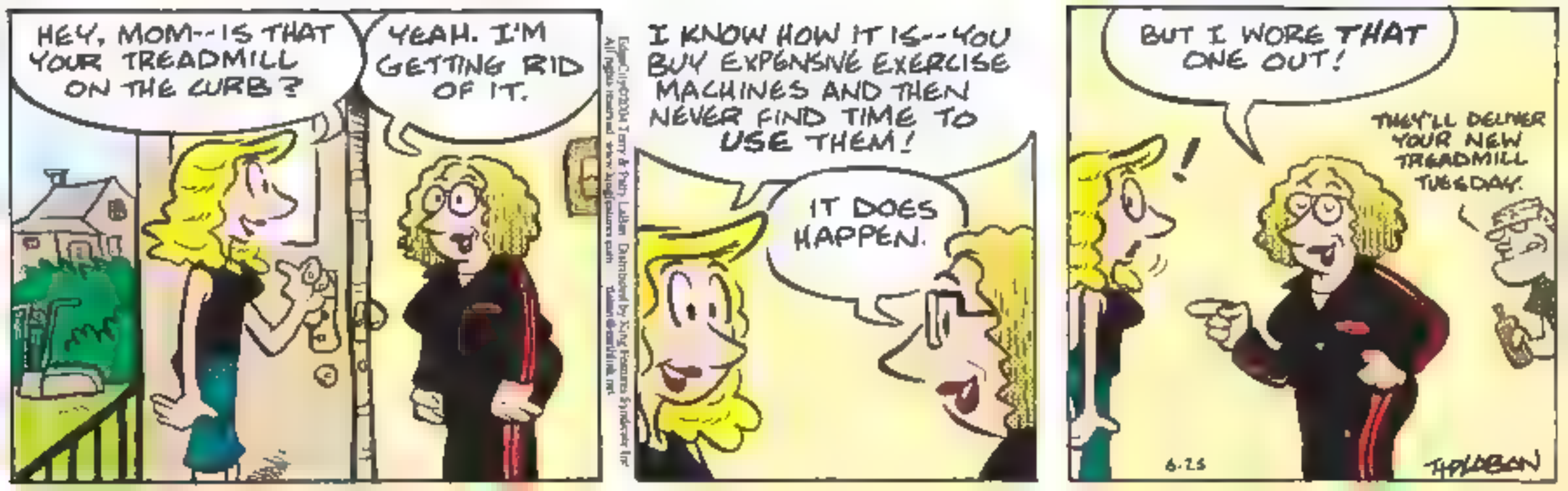

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!
OH, WOW! THANKS, YOU GUYS!
IT'S YOUR SPECIAL DAY, LEN. YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU WANT!
REALLY?
MAYBE I'LL CALL GEORGE AND SEE IF HE WANTS TO SEE A BAND SOMEWHERE...
OR MAYBE I'LL SEE A MATINEE OF A MOVIE NO ONE ELSE WOULD LIKE...
OR GO DOWNTOWN AND SHOP FOR USED CDS!...
ACTUALLY, WHAT I'D REALLY LIKE TO DO IS TAKE US ALL TO PLAY MINI GOLF!
YAY!!

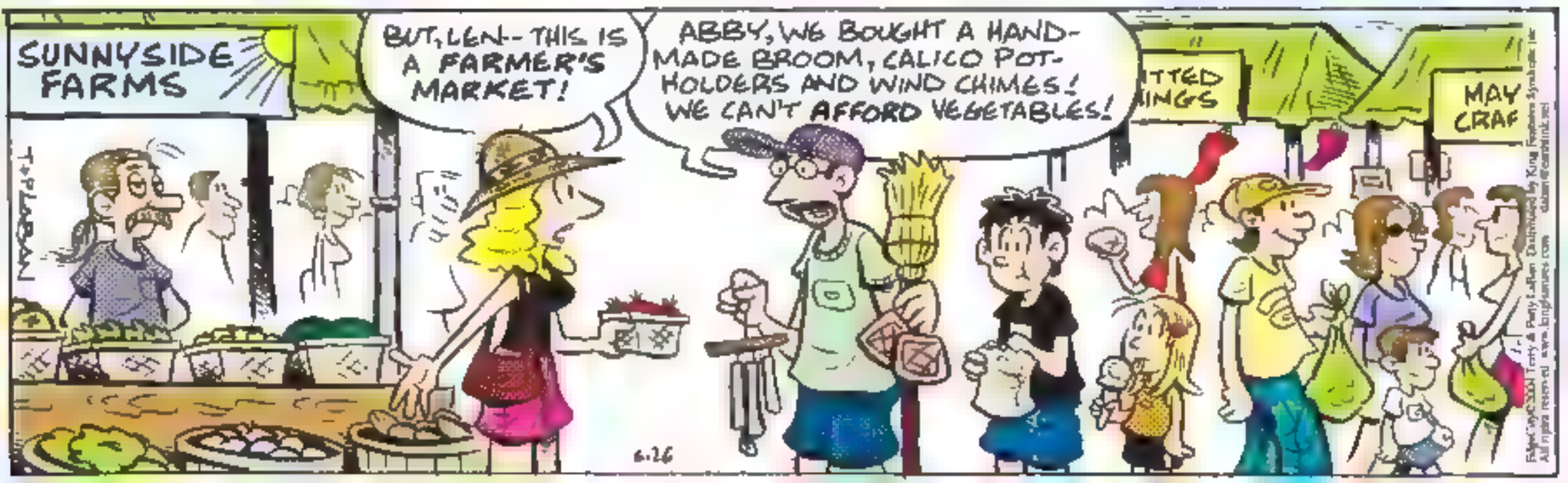

LEN, I STOPPED TO GET SOME THINGS THE KIDS NEED TO START CAMP TOMORROW.
LIST
I THINK I MAY BE ANOTHER HOUR OR TWO.
WHY SO LONG?
6.21
IT LOOKS LIKE A LOT OF CAMPS START TOMORROW!
3
4
5
TOMLIBON

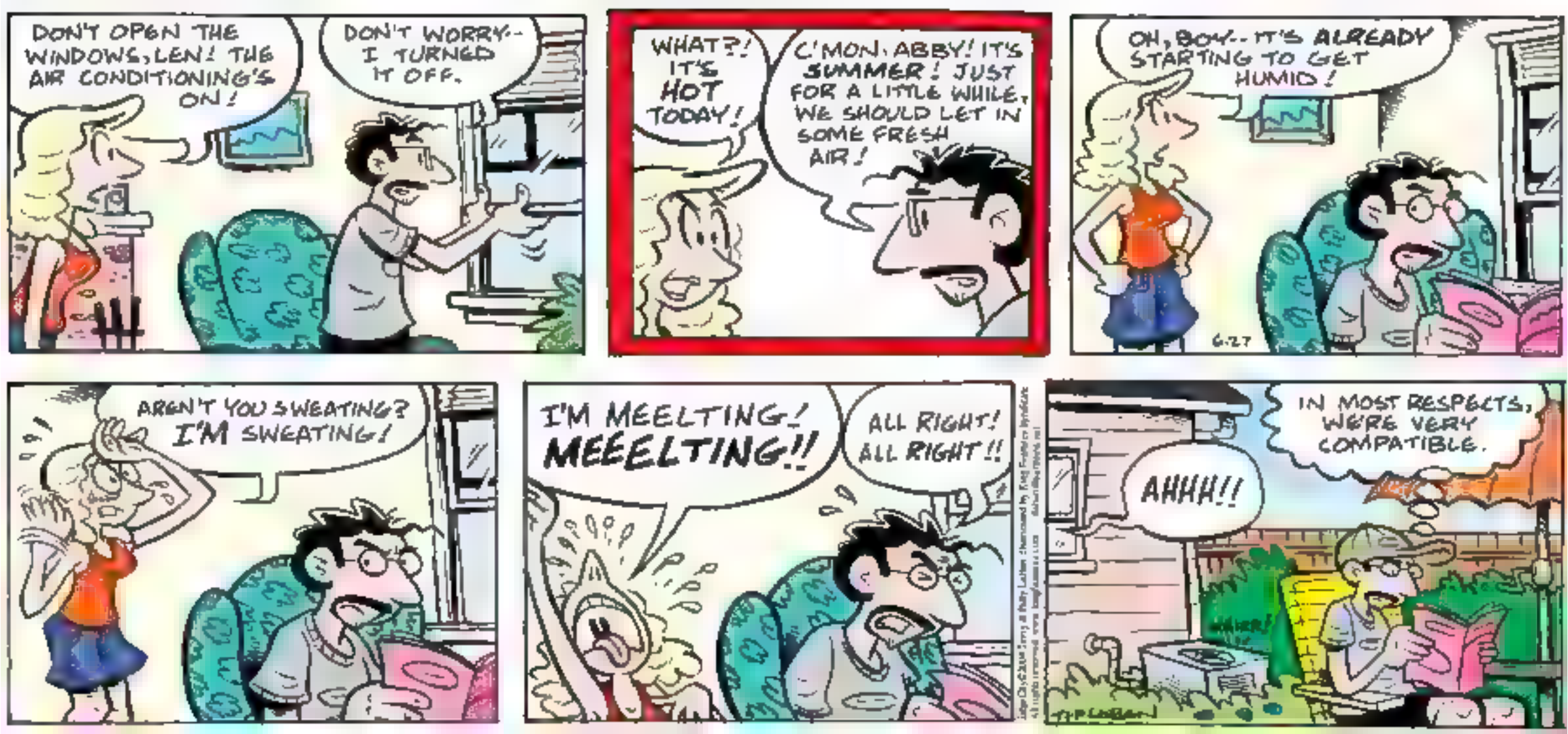

C'MON, WE'RE LATE! YOU CAN'T MISS THE BUS TO CAMP!
SCHOOL'S OVER, BUT THE RAT RACE GOES ON.
WELL, IT'S A LITTLE MORE RELAXED IN THE SUMMER.
6.22
IN WHAT WAY?
WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYONE FORGETTING THEIR HOMEWORK!


LAUGH!
THUMPA
GIGGLE!
SOUNDS LIKE THE NEIGHBOR'S COLLEGE KIDS ARE HAVING A PARTY!
IT'S MIDNIGHT! I'M GOING OVER AND TELLING THEM TO KEEP IT DOWN!
GIGGLE!
THUMPA THUMPA THU
LAUGH!
TALK!
?
TALK!
THUMPA THUMPA
THUMPA
LAUGH!
GIGGLE!
6-23


♫ ROLL OUT THOSE LAZY, HAZY, CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER!...♫
♪ SIGH! ♪
THEY'RE HAZY, ANYHOW.
CONSTRUCTION ZONE NEXT 3 MILES
6-24


HEY, MOM--IS THAT YOUR TREADMILL ON THE CURB?
YEAH. I'M GETTING RID OF IT.
I KNOW HOW IT IS--YOU BUY EXPENSIVE EXERCISE MACHINES AND THEN NEVER FIND TIME TO USE THEM!
IT DOES HAPPEN.
BUT I WORE THAT ONE OUT!
THEY'LL DELIVER YOUR NEW TREADMILL TUESDAY.
6-25
THOLDEN


SUNNYSIDE FARMS
BUT, LEN-- THIS IS A FARMER'S MARKET!
ABBY, WE BOUGHT A HAND-MADE BROOM, CALICO POT-HOLDERS AND WIND CHIMES! WE CAN'T AFFORD VEGETABLES!
ITTED INGS
MAY CRAF
T+PLABAN
6-26


DON'T OPEN THE WINDOWS, LEN! THE AIR CONDITIONING'S ON!
DON'T WORRY-- I TURNED IT OFF.
WHAT?! IT'S HOT TODAY!
C'MON, ABBY! IT'S SUMMER! JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, WE SHOULD LET IN SOME FRESH AIR!
OH, BOY-- IT'S ALREADY STARTING TO GET HUMID!
6-27
AREN'T YOU SWEATING? I'M SWEATING!
I'M MEELTING! MEEELTING!!
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT!!
IN MOST RESPECTS, WE'RE VERY COMPATIBLE.
AHHH!!

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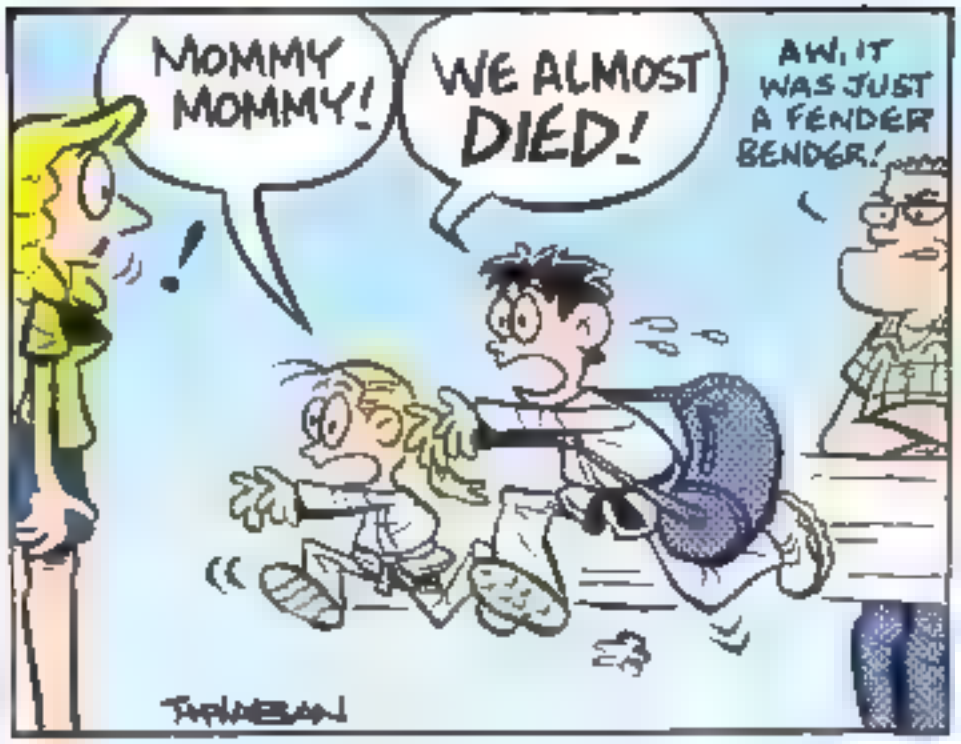
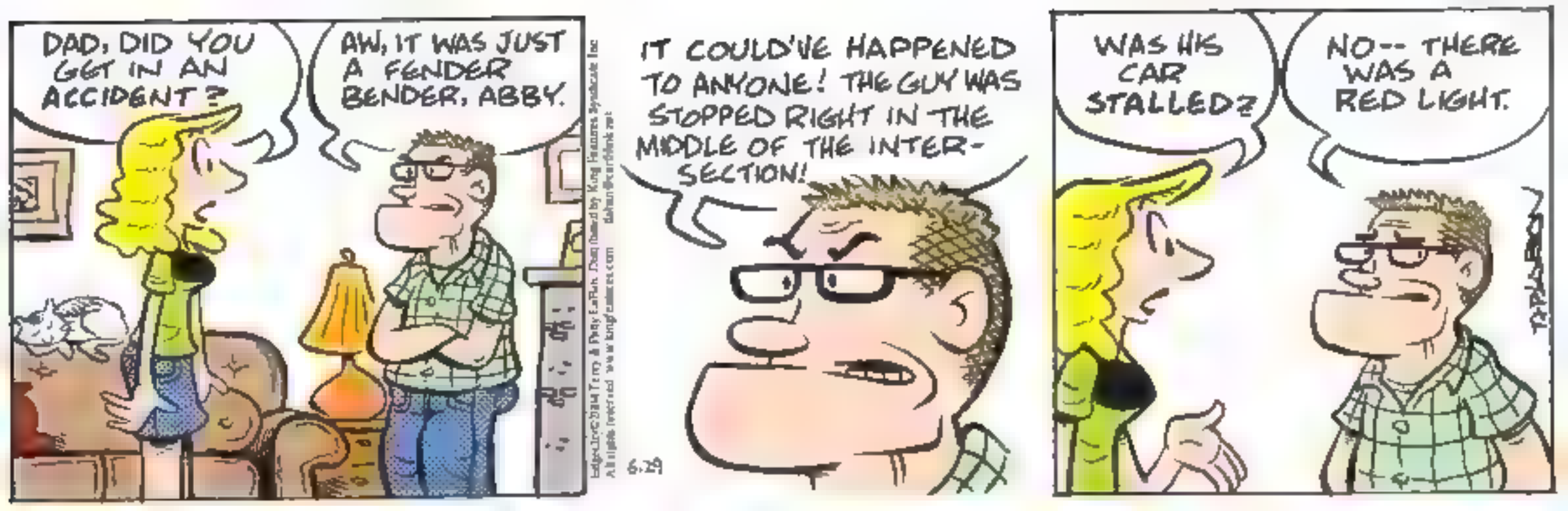
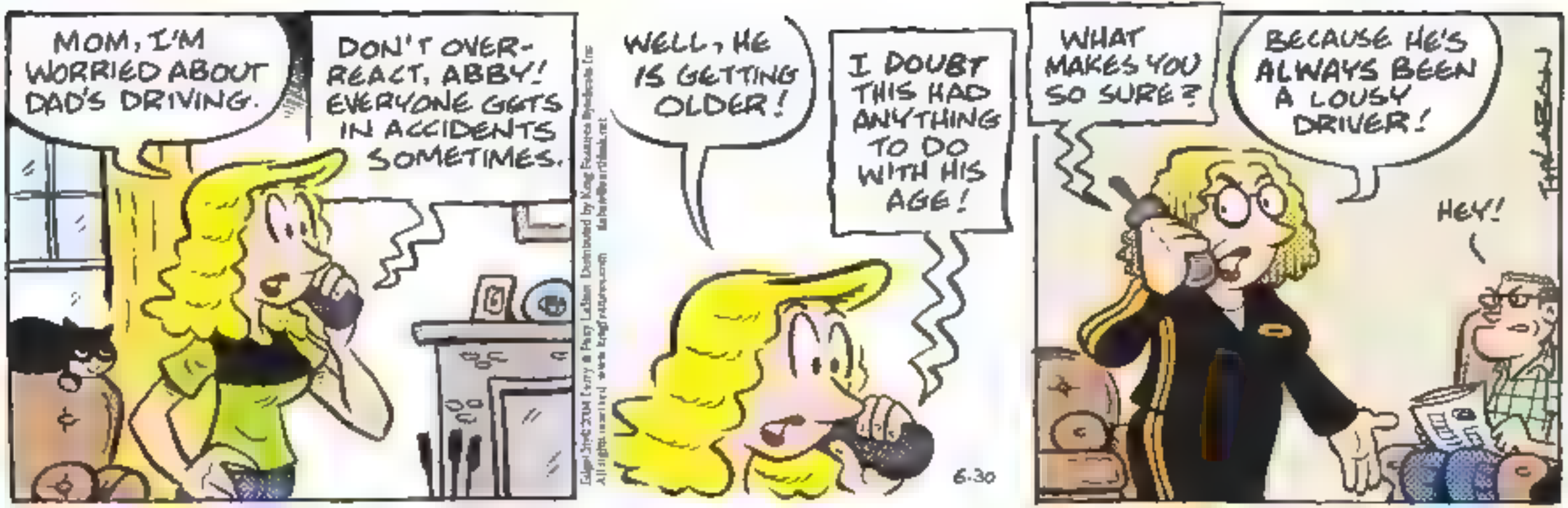
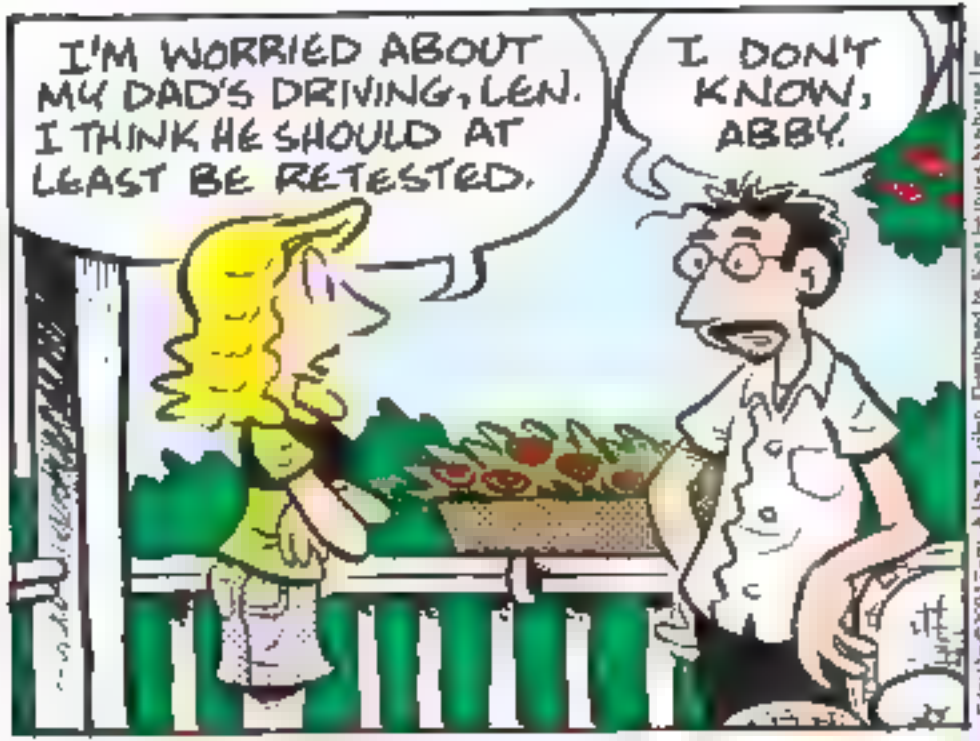


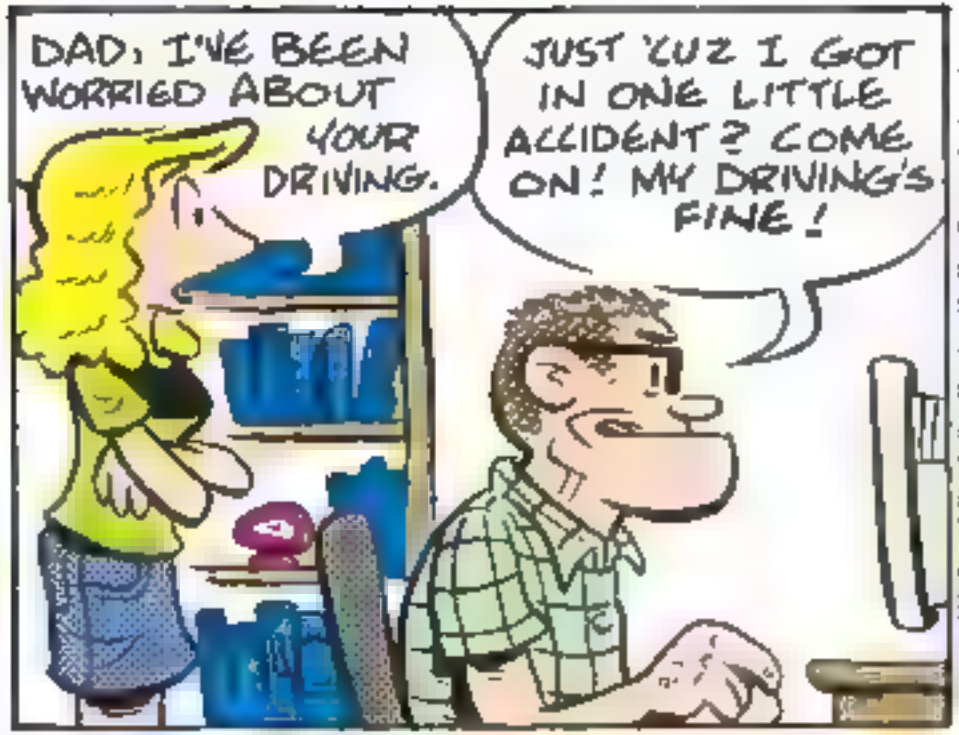

DAD, DID YOU GET IN AN ACCIDENT?
AW, IT WAS JUST A FENDER BENDER, ABBY.
IT COULD'VE HAPPENED TO ANYONE! THE GUY WAS STOPPED RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE INTER-SECTION!
6-29
WAS HIS CAR STALLED?
NO-- THERE WAS A RED LIGHT.


MOM, I'M WORRIED ABOUT DAD'S DRIVING.
DON'T OVER-REACT, ABBY! EVERYONE GETS IN ACCIDENTS SOMETIMES.
WELL, HE IS GETTING OLDER!
I DOUBT THIS HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIS AGE!
6-30
WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE?
BECAUSE HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A LOUSY DRIVER!
HEY!


I'M WORRIED ABOUT MY DAD'S DRIVING, LEN. I THINK HE SHOULD AT LEAST BE RETESTED.
I DON'T KNOW, ABBY.

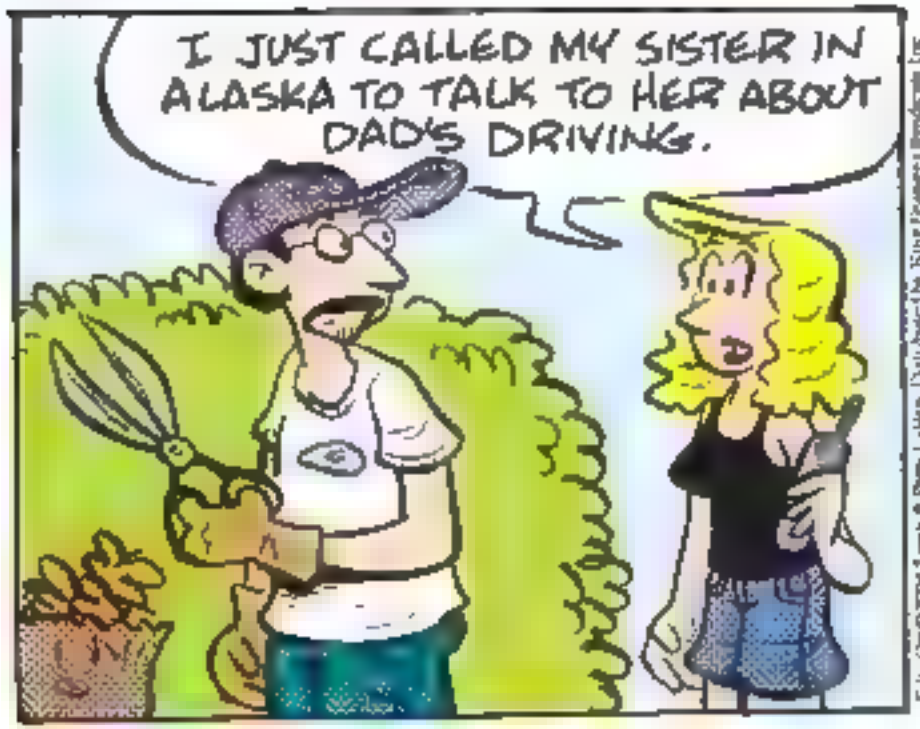
HE'LL BE FURIOUS AT YOU FOR EVEN SUGGESTING IT!
YEAH. MAYBE I SHOULD ASK MY SISTER TO TALK TO HIM.

DO THEY HAVE A PARTICULARLY GOOD RELATIONSHIP?
NO. BUT SHE LIVES IN ALASKA.


DAD, I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOUR DRIVING.
JUST 'CUZ I GOT IN ONE LITTLE ACCIDENT? COME ON! MY DRIVING'S FINE!

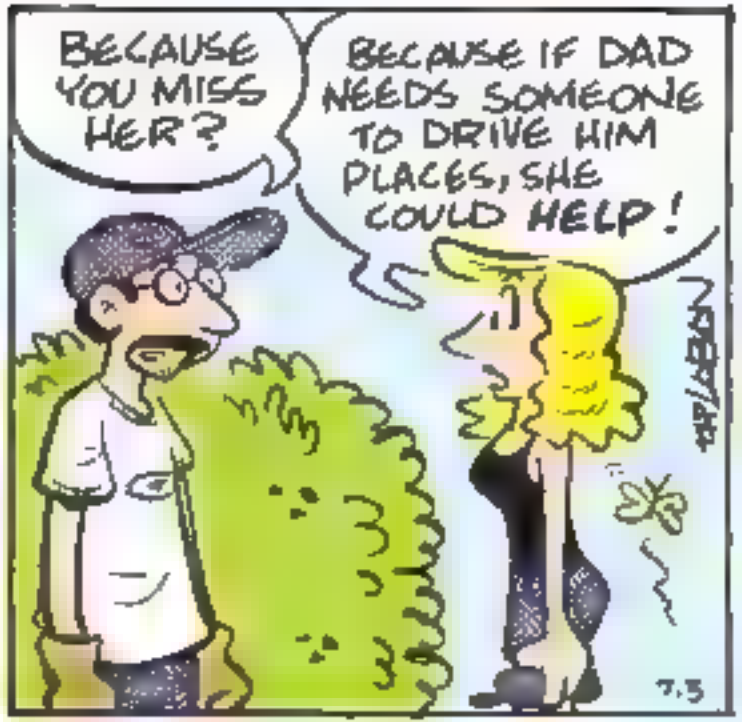
I JUST THINK YOU SHOULD GET RETESTED! A LOT OF PEOPLE YOUR AGE DO IT!

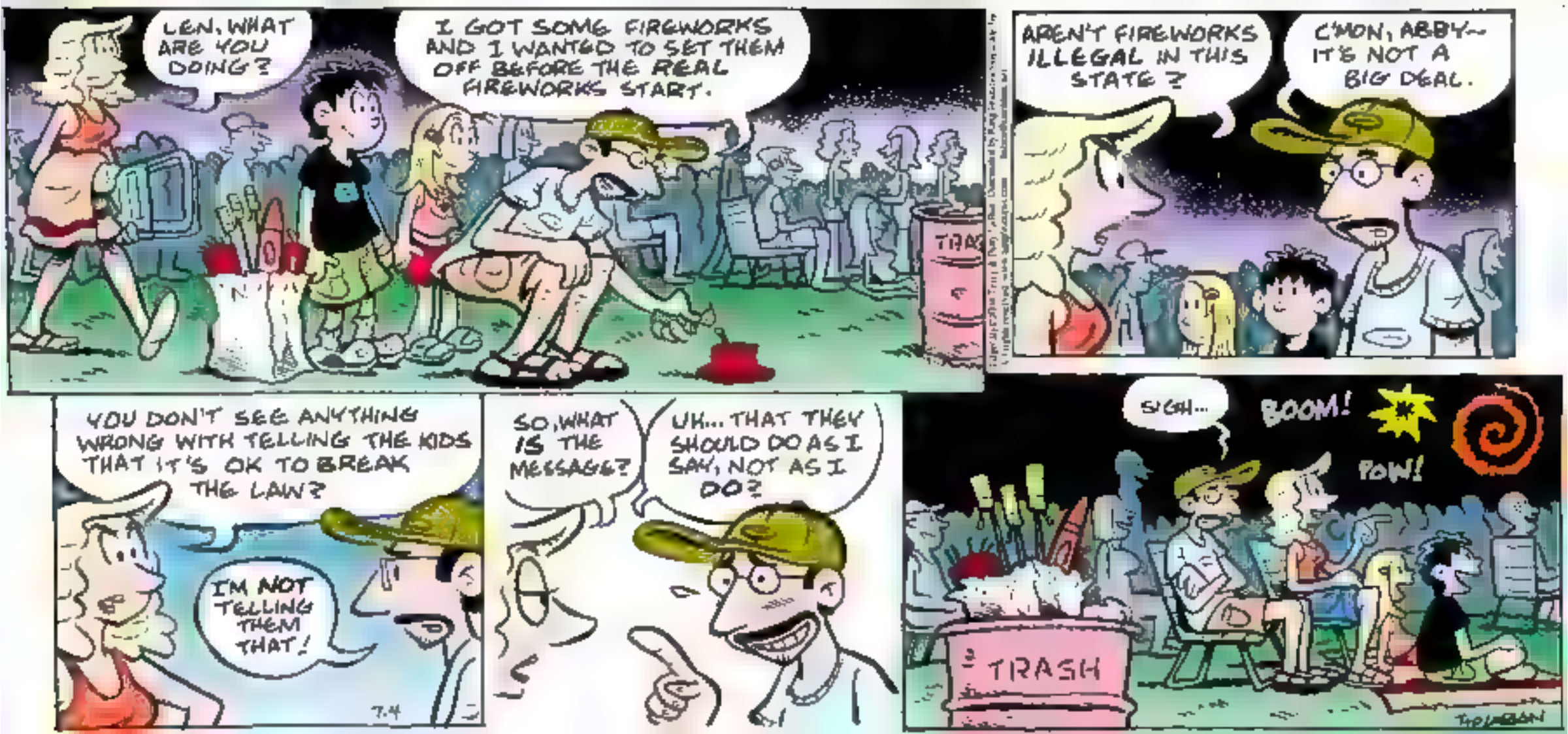
IF THEY WANT MY LICENSE, THEY'LL HAVE TO PRY IT OUT OF MY COLD, DEAD HANDS.
SEE, THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO AVOID...
7.2

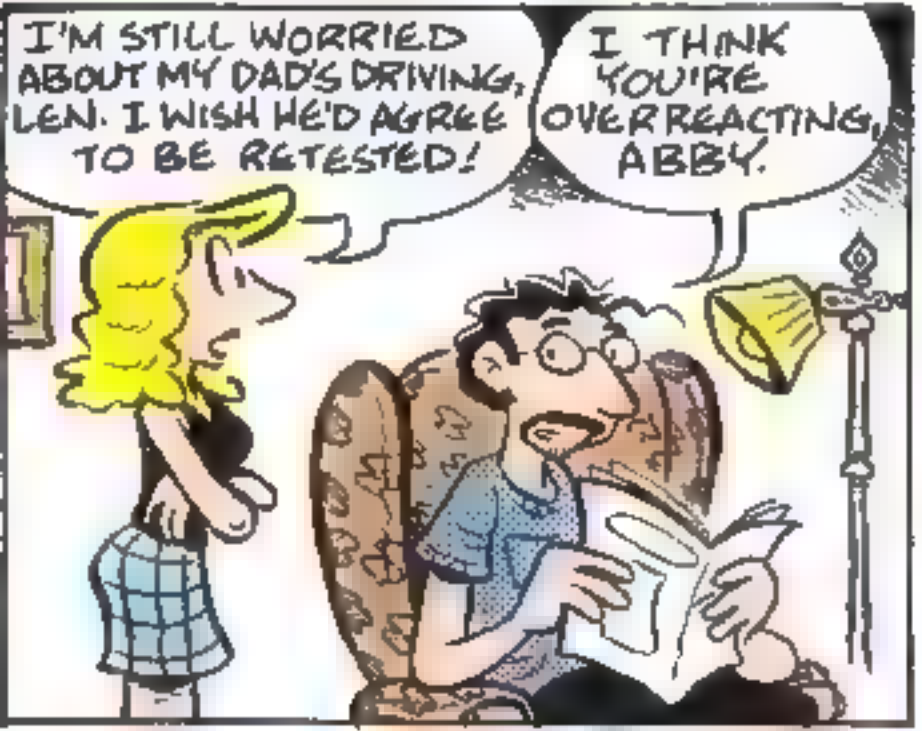

I JUST CALLED MY SISTER IN ALASKA TO TALK TO HER ABOUT DAD'S DRIVING.

HOW WAS IT?

FINE. I JUST WISH SHE LIVED CLOSER!


BECAUSE YOU MISS HER?
BECAUSE IF DAD NEEDS SOMEONE TO DRIVE HIM PLACES, SHE COULD HELP!
7.5


LEN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I GOT SOME FIREWORKS AND I WANTED TO SET THEM OFF BEFORE THE REAL FIREWORKS START.
TRAS
AREN'T FIREWORKS ILLEGAL IN THIS STATE?
C'MON, ABBY-- IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.
YOU DON'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG WITH TELLING THE KIDS THAT IT'S OK TO BREAK THE LAW?
I'M NOT TELLING THEM THAT!
7-4
SO, WHAT IS THE MESSAGE?
UH... THAT THEY SHOULD DO AS I SAY, NOT AS I DO?
SIGH...
BOOM!
POW!
TRASH



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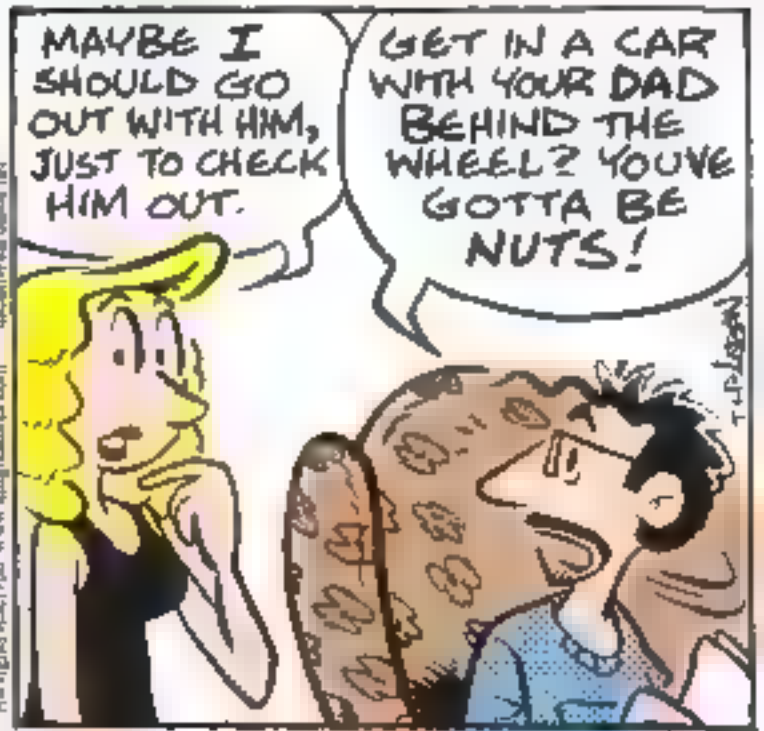
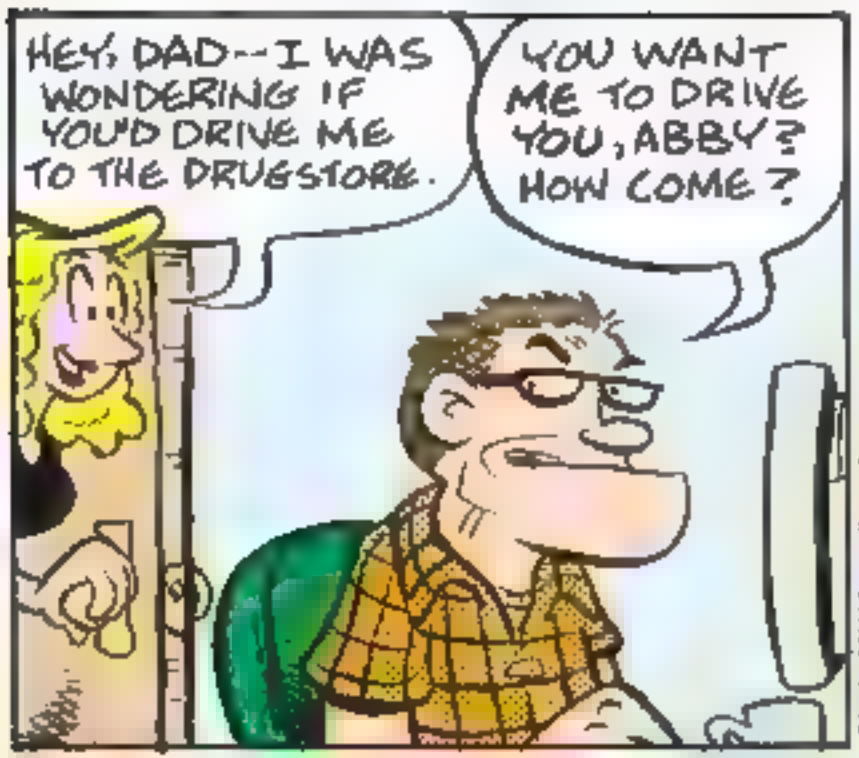
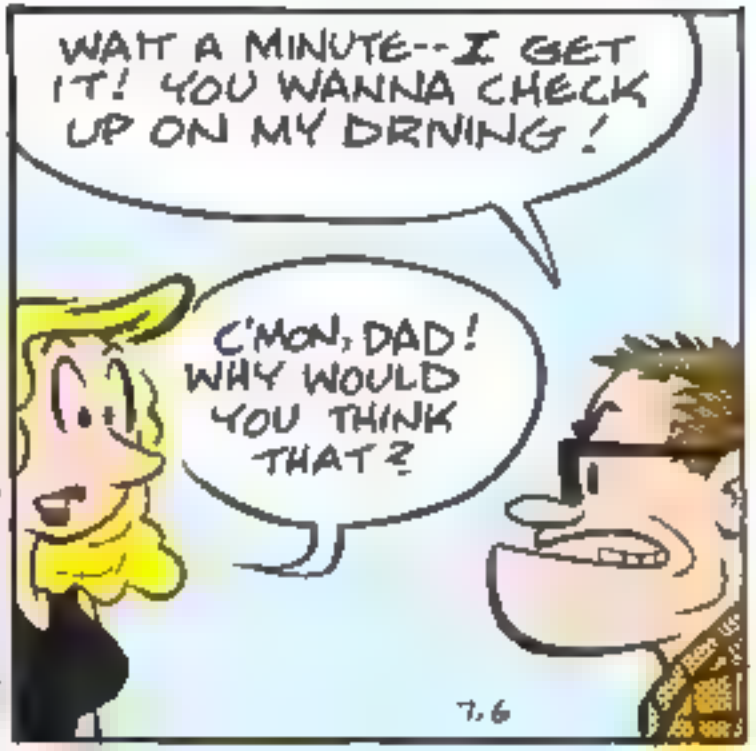
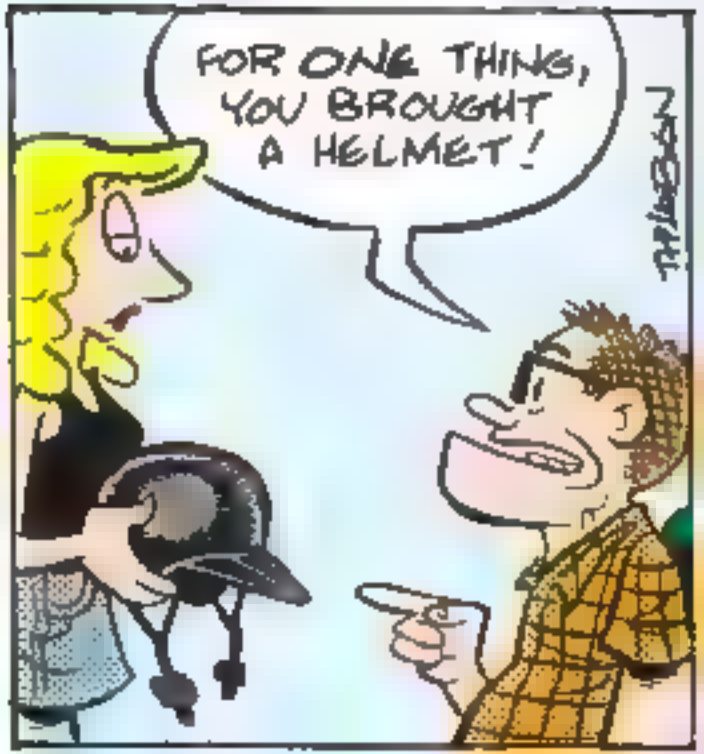
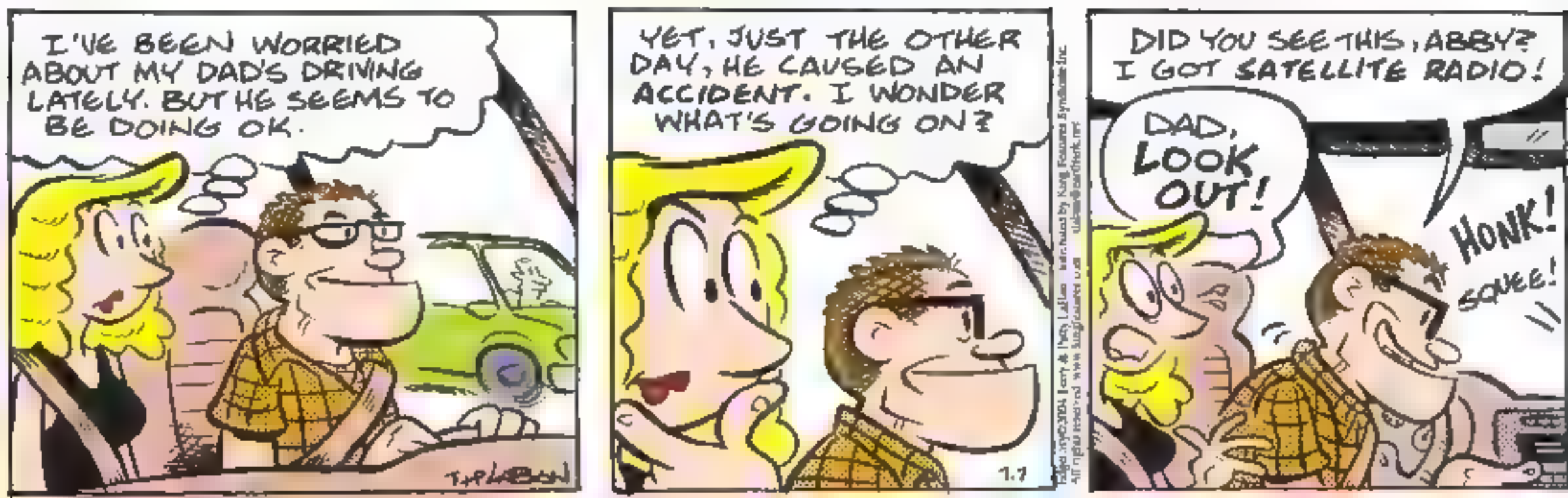
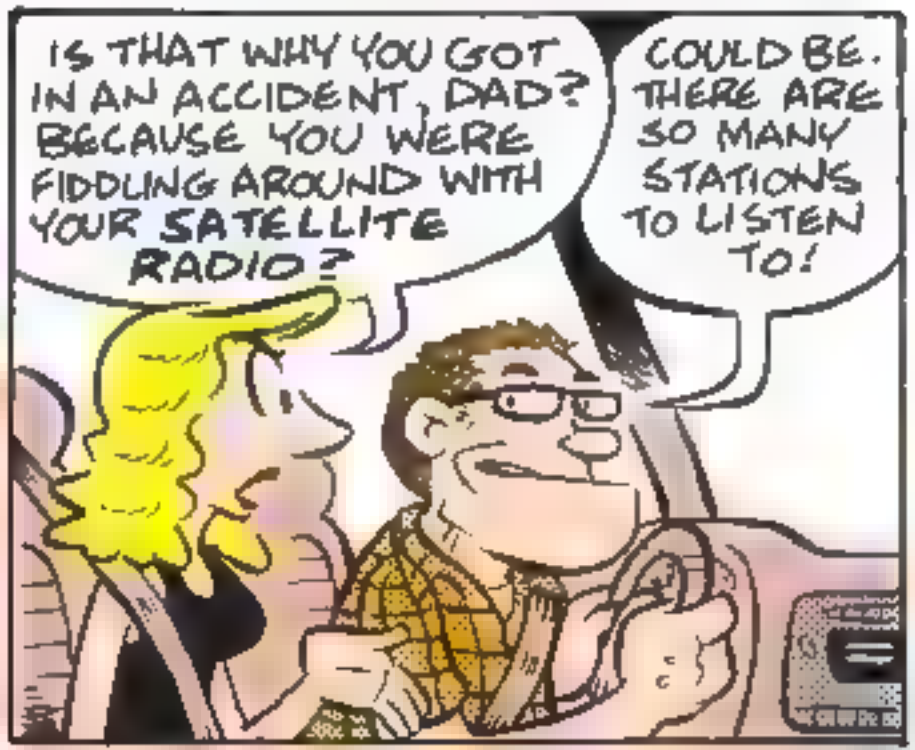


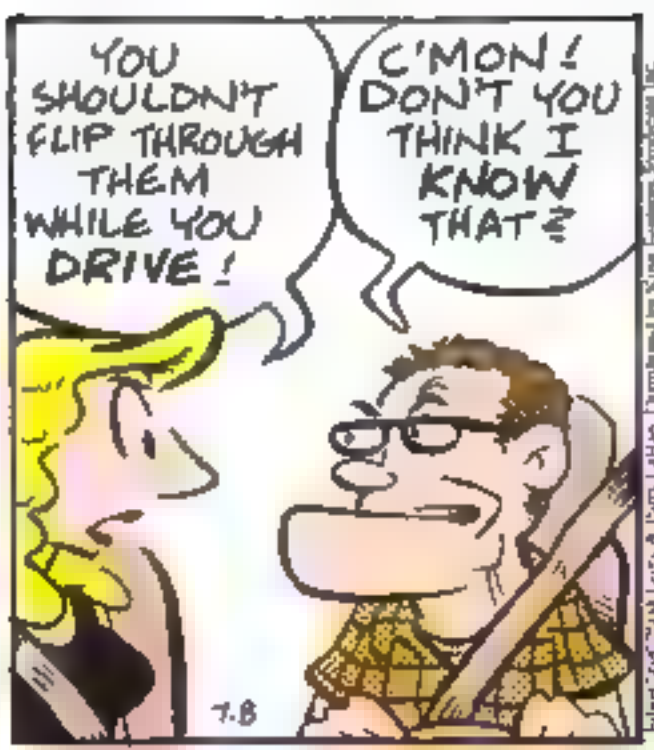

HEY, DAD--I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D DRIVE ME TO THE DRUGSTORE.
YOU WANT ME TO DRIVE YOU, ABBY? HOW COME?

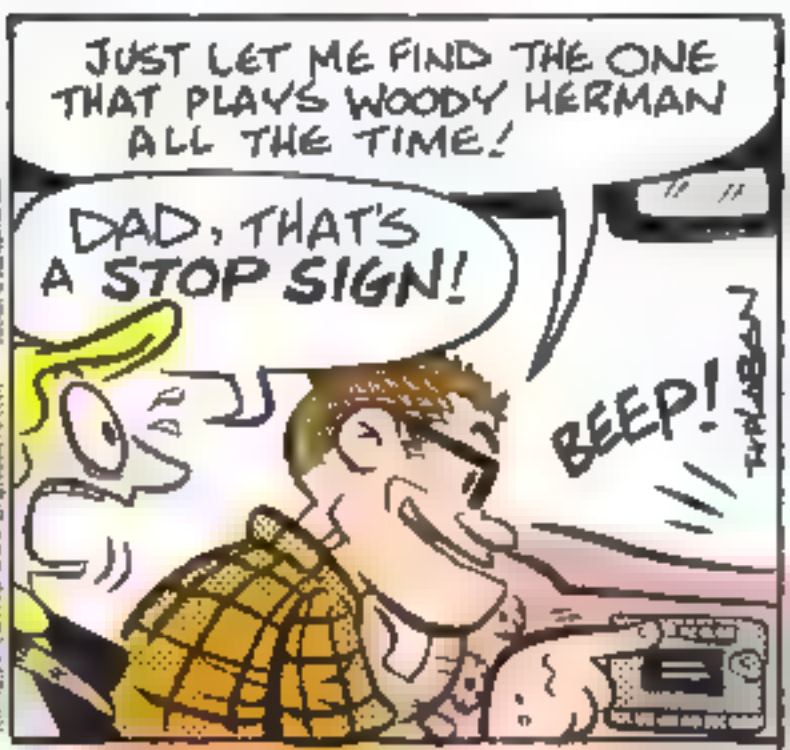

WAIT A MINUTE--I GET IT! YOU WANNA CHECK UP ON MY DRNING!
C'MON, DAD! WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?
7.6

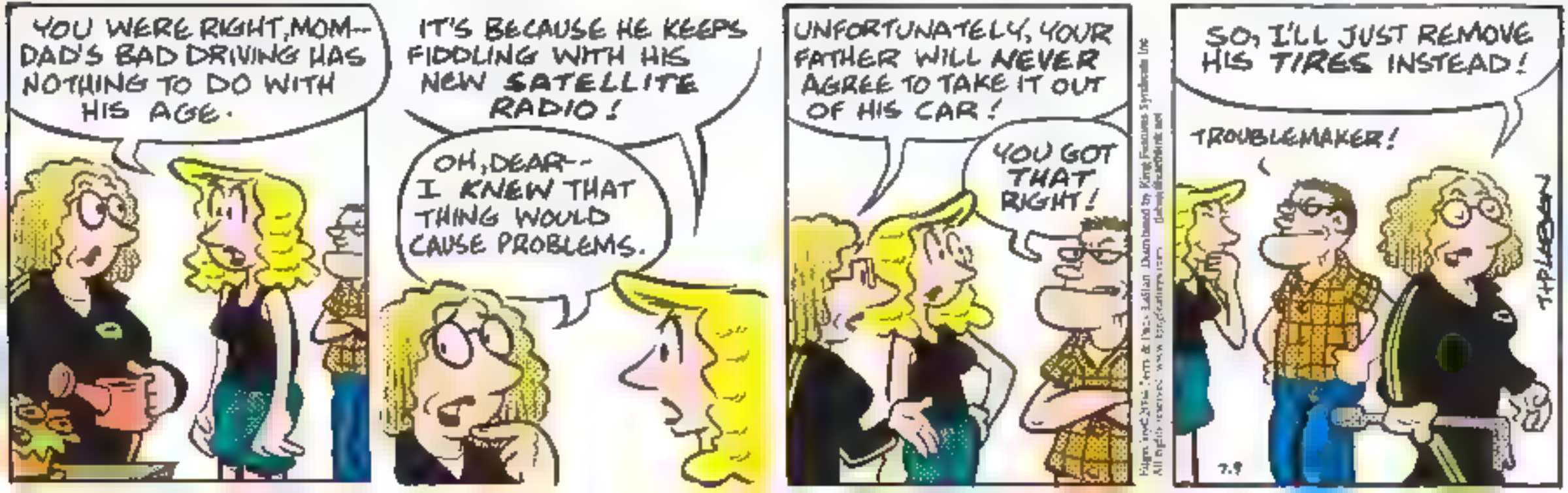

FOR ONE THING, YOU BROUGHT A HELMET!

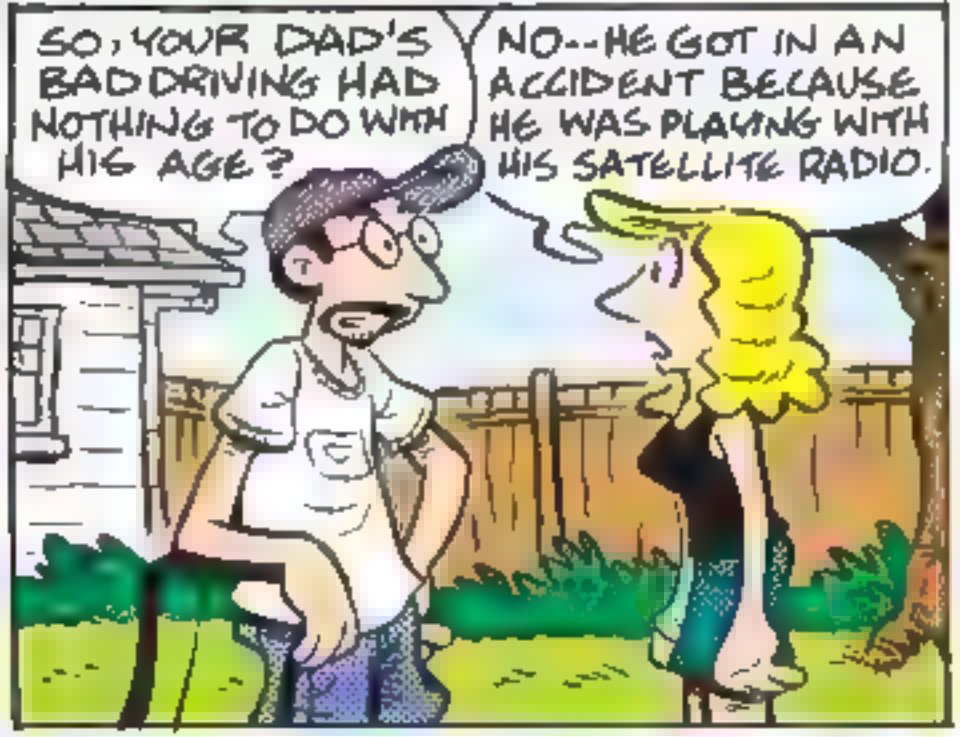

I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT MY DAD'S DRIVING LATELY. BUT HE SEEMS TO BE DOING OK.
YET, JUST THE OTHER DAY, HE CAUSED AN ACCIDENT. I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON?
1.7
DID YOU SEE THIS, ABBY? I GOT SATELLITE RADIO!
DAD, LOOK OUT!
HONK!
SQUEE!

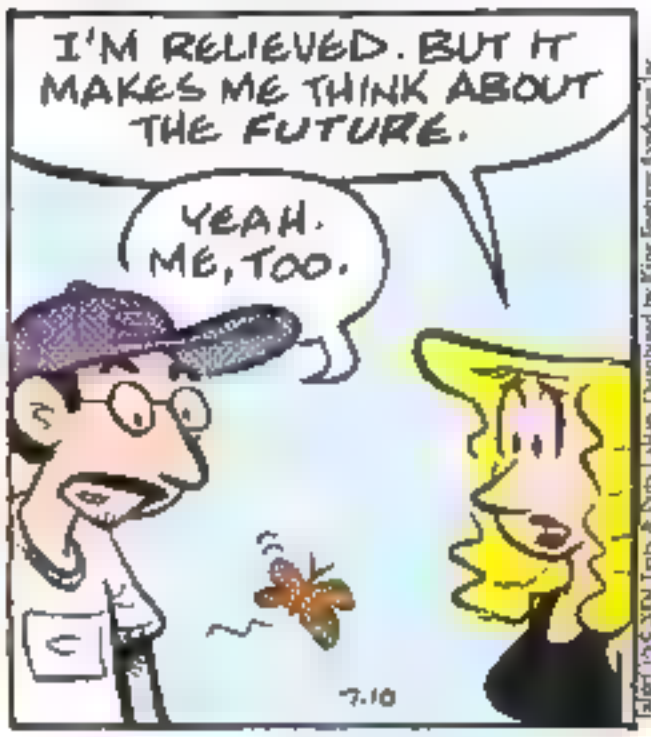

IS THAT WHY YOU GOT IN AN ACCIDENT, DAD? BECAUSE YOU WERE FIDDLING AROUND WITH YOUR SATELLITE RADIO?
COULD BE. THERE ARE SO MANY STATIONS TO LISTEN TO!

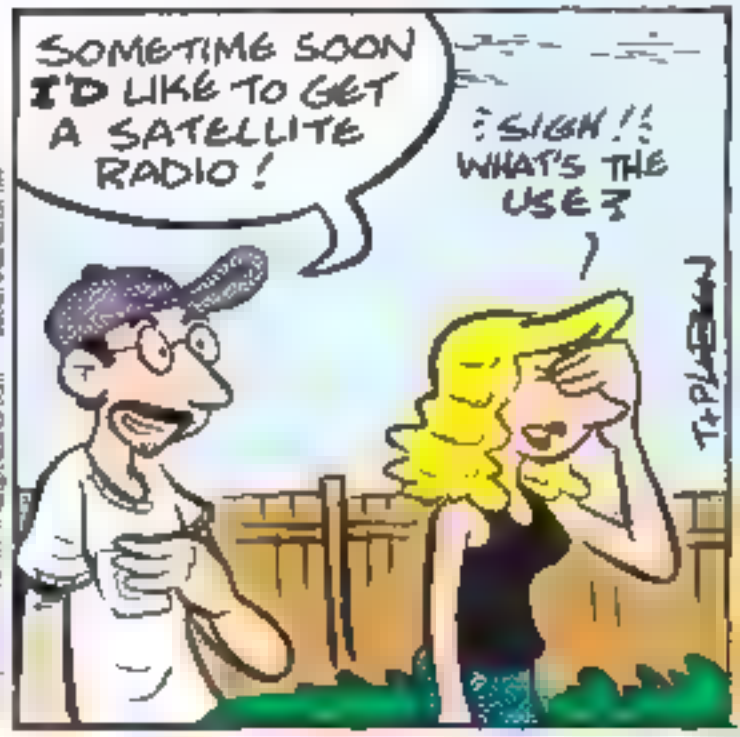

YOU SHOULDN'T FLIP THROUGH THEM WHILE YOU DRIVE!
C'MON! DON'T YOU THINK I KNOW THAT?

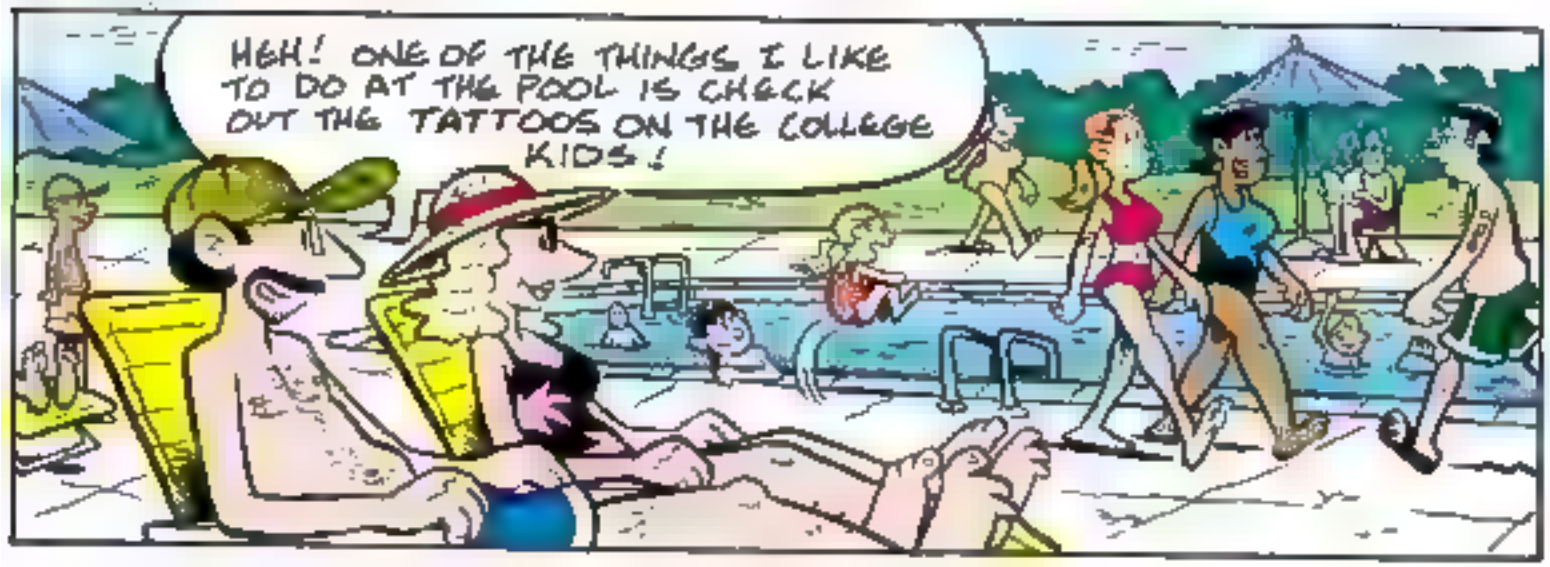

JUST LET ME FIND THE ONE THAT PLAYS WOODY HERMAN ALL THE TIME!
DAD, THAT'S A STOP SIGN!
BEEP!

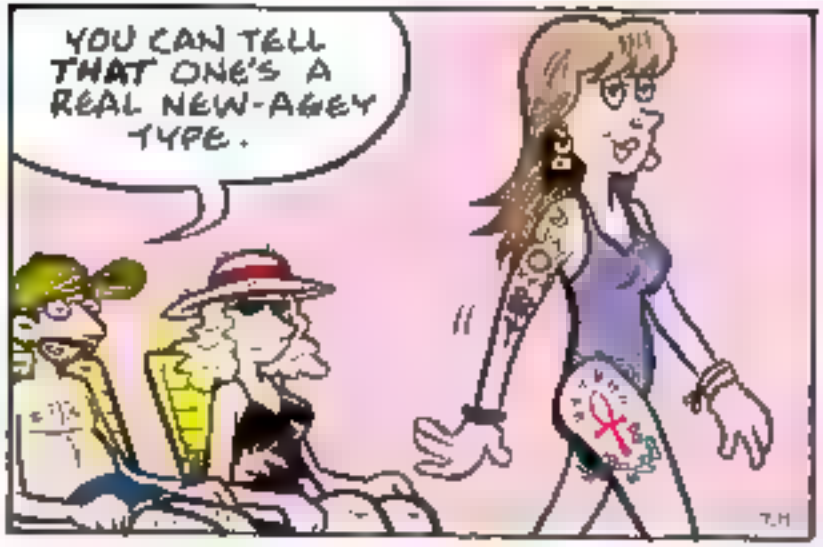

YOU WERE RIGHT, MOM-- DAD'S BAD DRIVING HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HIS AGE.
IT'S BECAUSE HE KEEPS FIDDLING WITH HIS NEW SATELLITE RADIO!
OH, DEAR-- I KNEW THAT THING WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS.
UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR FATHER WILL NEVER AGREE TO TAKE IT OUT OF HIS CAR!
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!
SO, I'LL JUST REMOVE HIS TIRES INSTEAD!
TROUBLEMAKER!

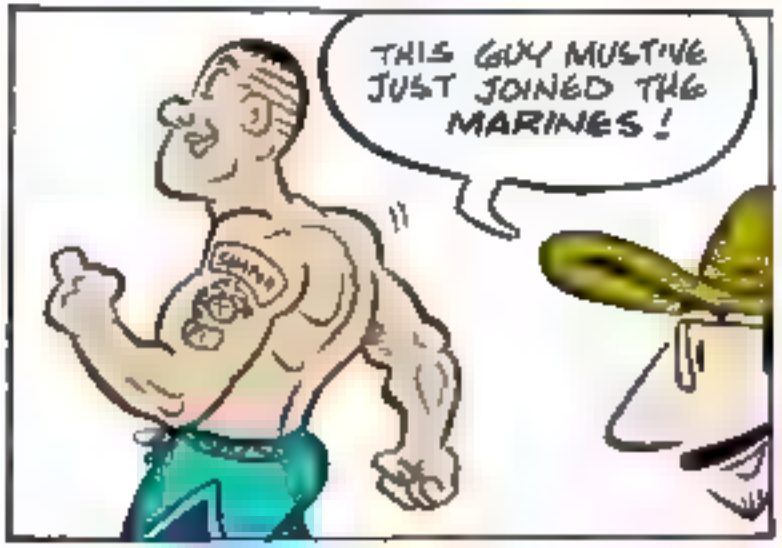

SO, YOUR DAD'S BAD DRIVING HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH HIS AGE?
NO--HE GOT IN AN ACCIDENT BECAUSE HE WAS PLAYING WITH HIS SATELLITE RADIO.

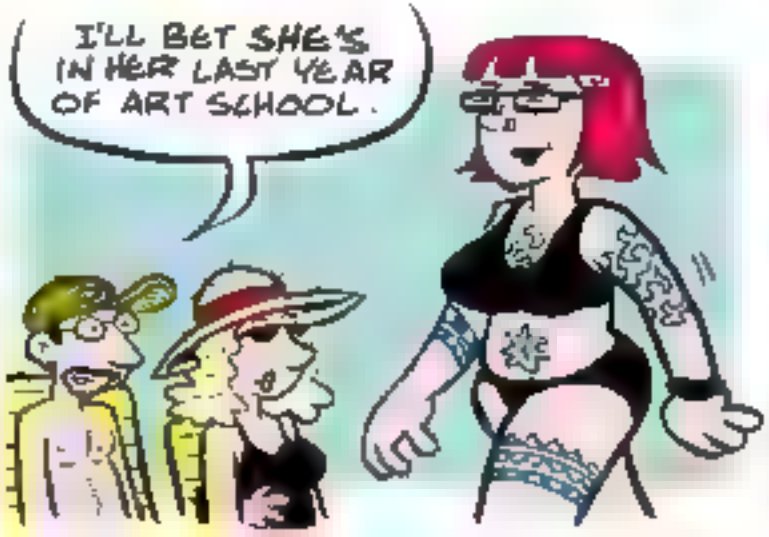

I'M RELIEVED. BUT IT MAKES ME THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE.
YEAH. ME, TOO.
7.10

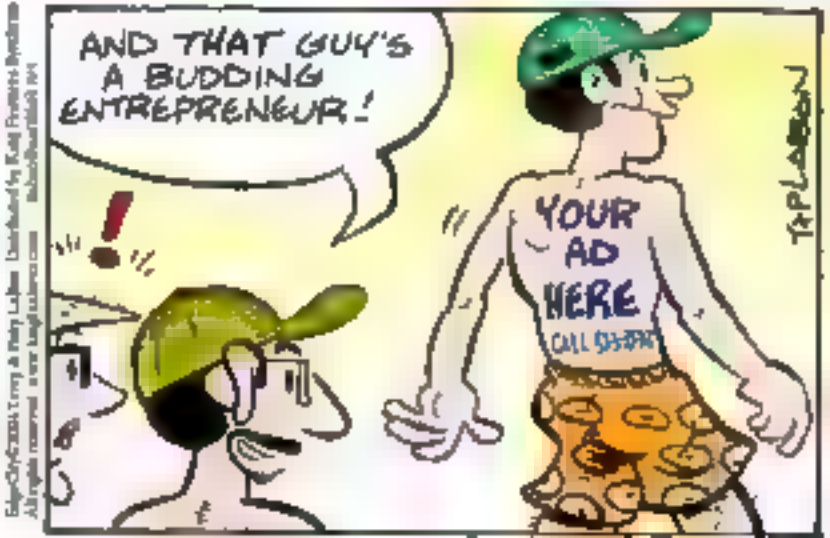

SOMETIME SOON I'D LIKE TO GET A SATELLITE RADIO!
:SIGH!: WHAT'S THE USE?


HEH! ONE OF THE THINGS I LIKE TO DO AT THE POOL IS CHECK OUT THE TATTOOS ON THE COLLEGE KIDS!


YOU CAN TELL THAT ONE'S A REAL NEW-AGEY TYPE.

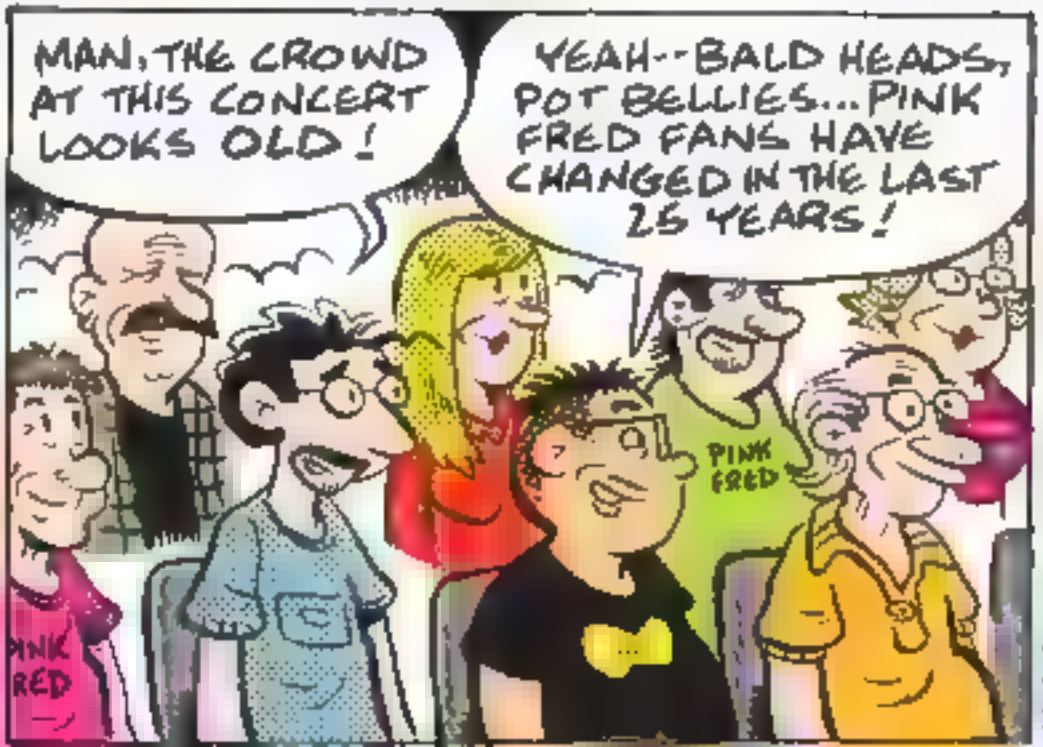

THIS GUY MUST'VE JUST JOINED THE MARINES!

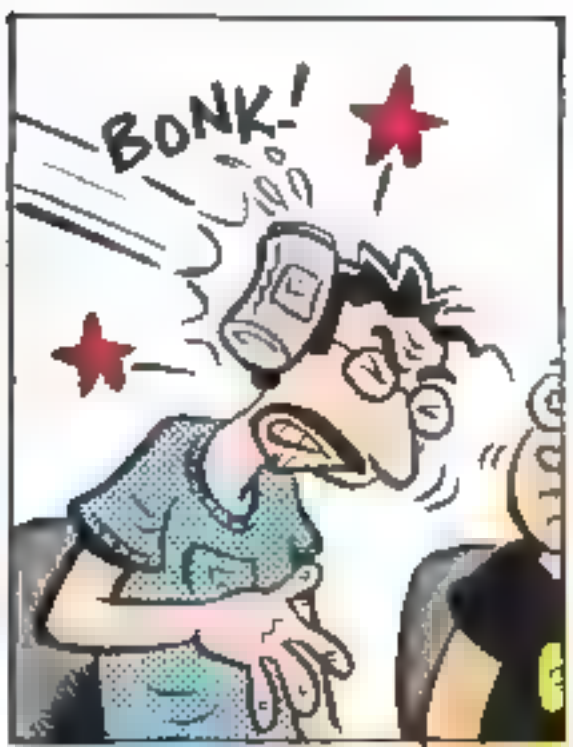

I'LL BET SHE'S IN HER LAST YEAR OF ART SCHOOL.


AND THAT GUY'S A BUDDING ENTREPRENEUR!
!
YOUR AD HERE
T&PLABBON

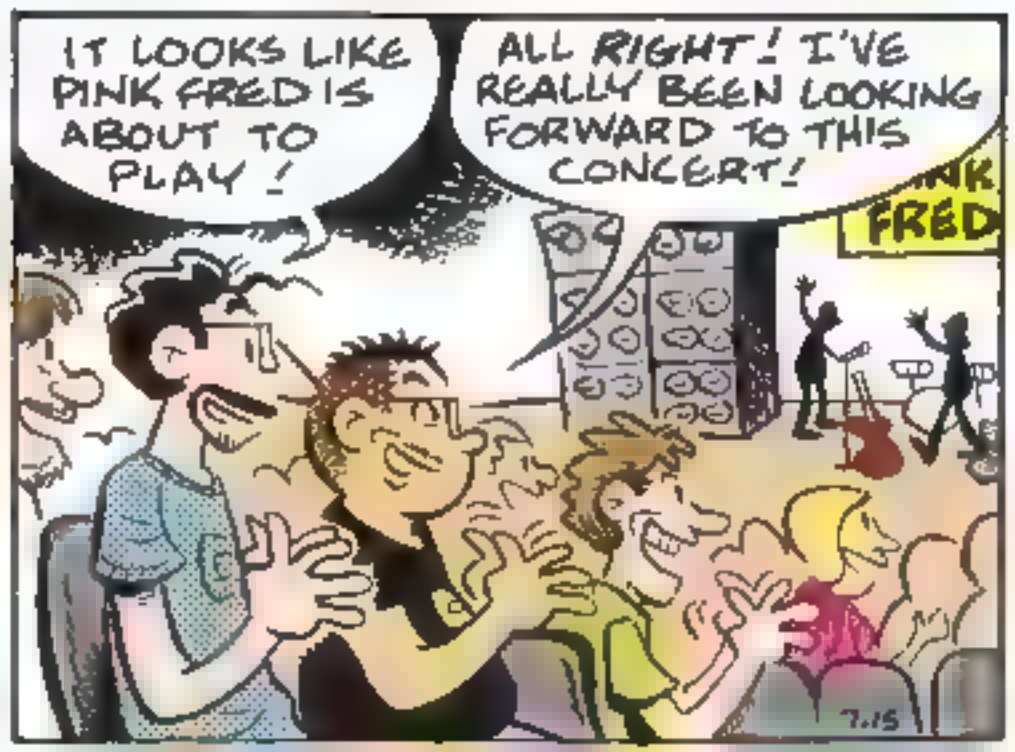
HEY LEN, DID YOU HEAR? PINK FRED IS PLAYING AT THE PAVILION NEXT WEEK!
REALLY? I'M SURPRISED THAT BAND IS STILL AROUND!
I HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT THEM IN YEARS! DIDN'T SOMETHING HAPPEN TO THEIR LEAD SINGER?
I GUESS HE'S BEEN IN AN INSTITUTION.
DRUG REHAB, HUH?
NO--A NURSING HOME!

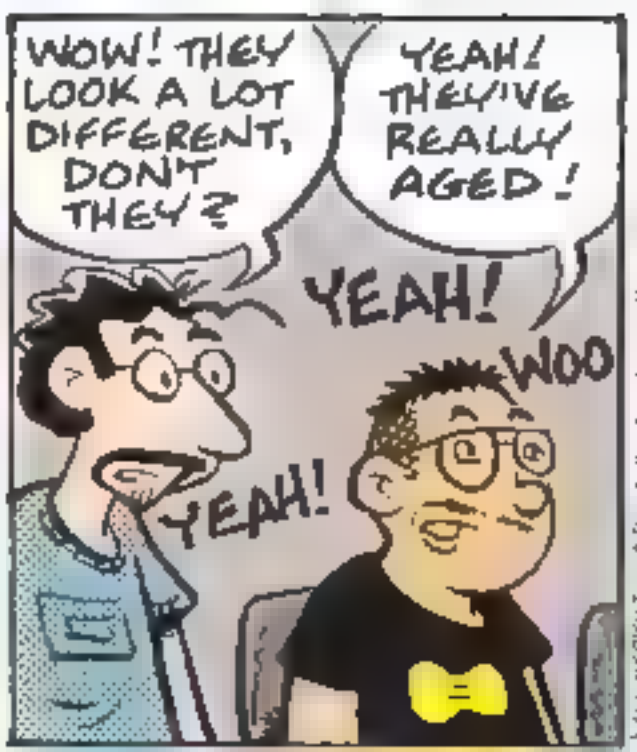
SAM ASKED ME IF WE WANTED TO SEE PINK FRED AT THE PAVILION NEXT WEEK.
THE OLD '70s BAND?
WE SHOULD GO! IT'LL BE REALLY COOL!
SPENDING 3 HOURS WITH A MOB OF MIDDLE-AGED MEN RELIVING HIGH SCHOOL DOESN'T SOUND VERY COOL TO ME!
WELL, WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...
BUT I'M SURE YOU AND SAM WILL HAVE FUN!
THAPLOFFEN
7-13

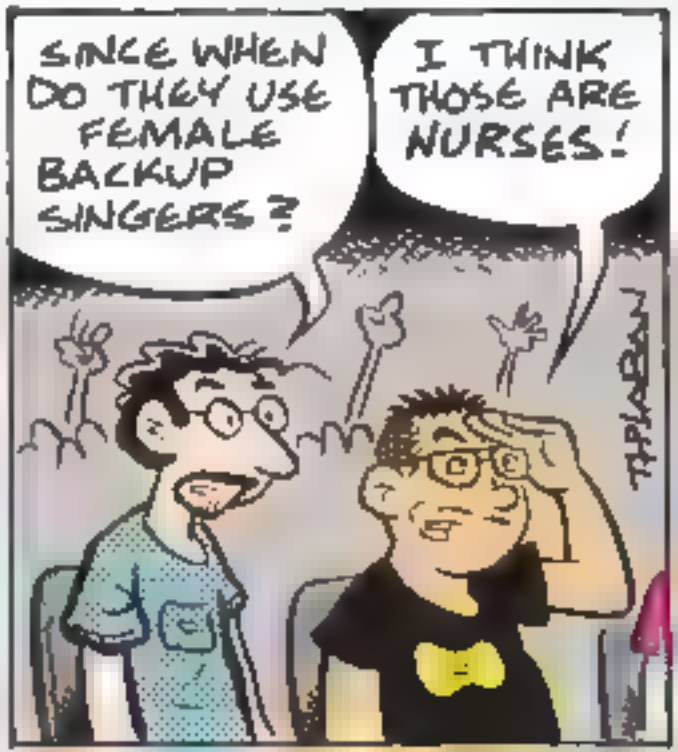

MAN, THE CROWD AT THIS CONCERT LOOKS OLD!
YEAH--BALD HEADS, POT BELLIES...PINK FRED FANS HAVE CHANGED IN THE LAST 25 YEARS!
PINK FRED
PINK FRED


BONK!

PINK FRED! YEAH!
ACTUALLY, NOT THAT MUCH...
T&P LABAN


IT LOOKS LIKE PINK FRED IS ABOUT TO PLAY!
ALL RIGHT! I'VE REALLY BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS CONCERT!
FRED
7.15


WOW! THEY LOOK A LOT DIFFERENT, DON'T THEY?
YEAH! THEY'VE REALLY AGED!
YEAH!
WOO
YEAH!


SINCE WHEN DO THEY USE FEMALE BACKUP SINGERS?
I THINK THOSE ARE NURSES!

Y'KNOW, SAM-- I'M HAVING A BLAST!

ME TOO! PINK FRED MAY HAVE AGED, BUT THEY CAN STILL JAM!

PINK FRED

HEY! WHY'D THEY STOP?

LOOKS LIKE THE LEAD GUITARIST IS HAVING A PROBLEM!

7-16

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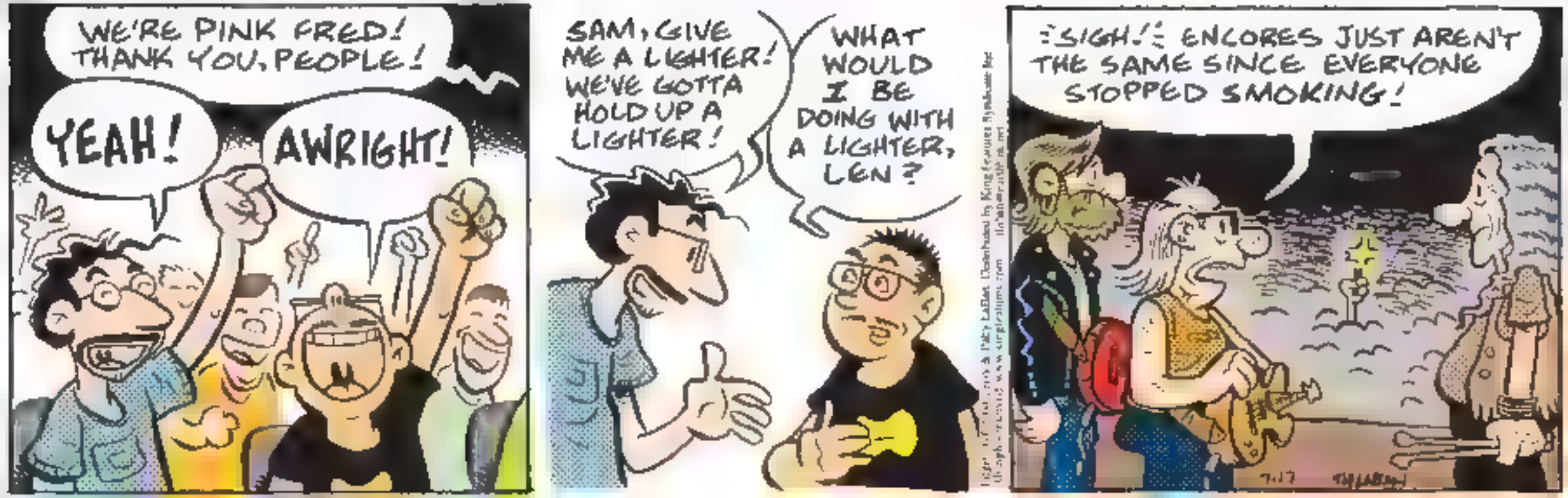
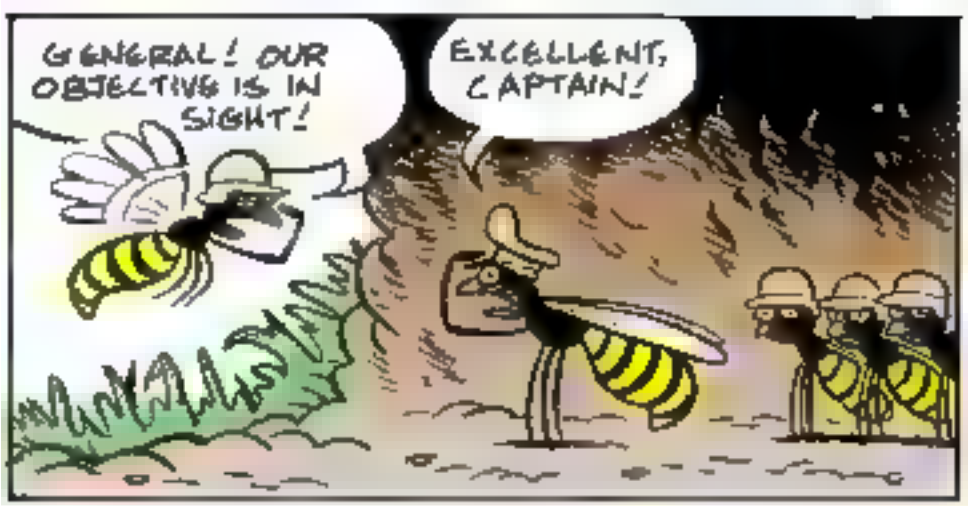
DID HE POP A STRING?

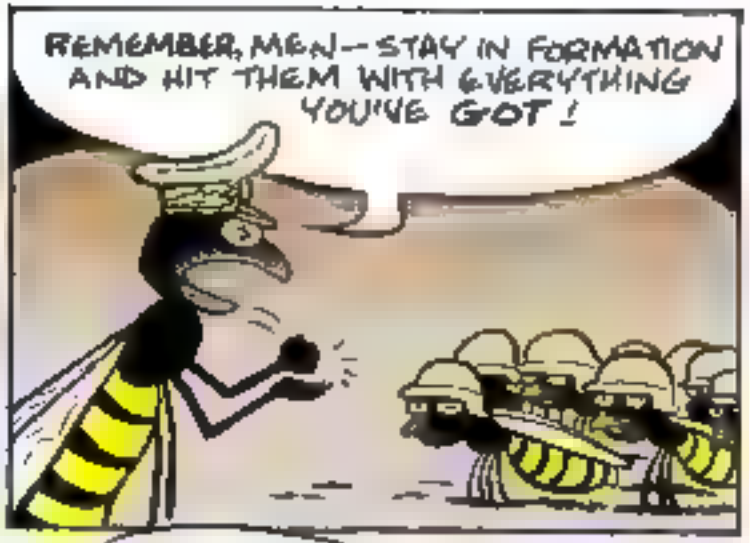
NO-- HIS HIP!

WE NEED TO TAKE A SHORT BREAK...

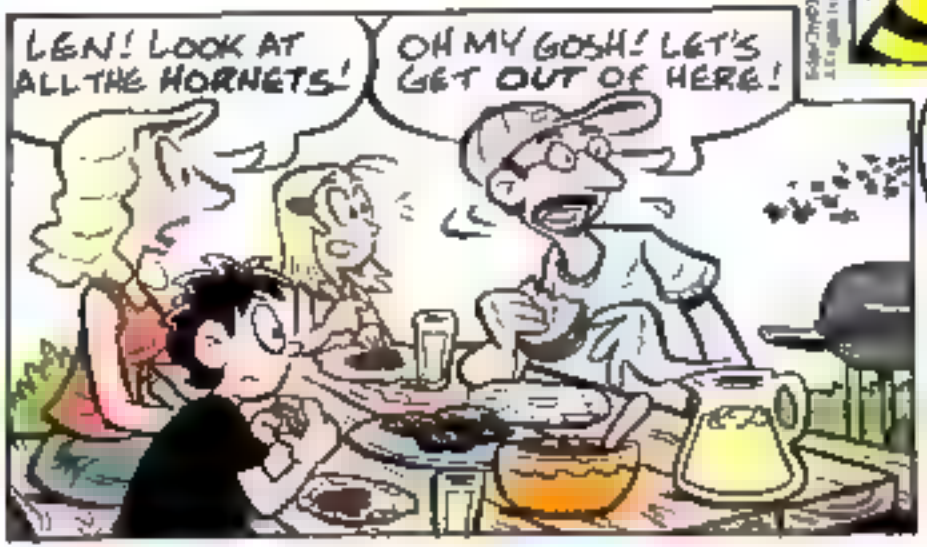
TAPLIN


WE'RE PINK FRED! THANK YOU, PEOPLE!
YEAH!
AWRIGHT!
SAM, GIVE ME A LIGHTER! WE'VE GOTTA HOLD UP A LIGHTER!
WHAT WOULD I BE DOING WITH A LIGHTER, LEN?
:SIGH!: ENCORES JUST AREN'T THE SAME SINCE EVERYONE STOPPED SMOKING!

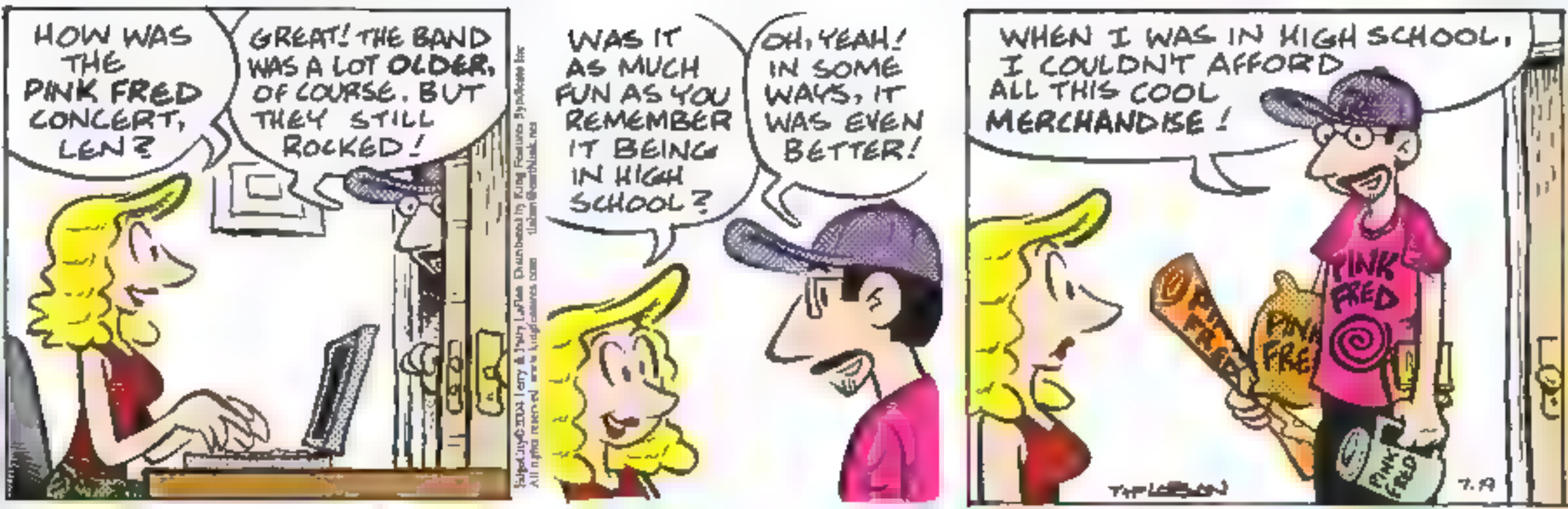

GENERAL! OUR OBJECTIVE IS IN SIGHT!
EXCELLENT, CAPTAIN!

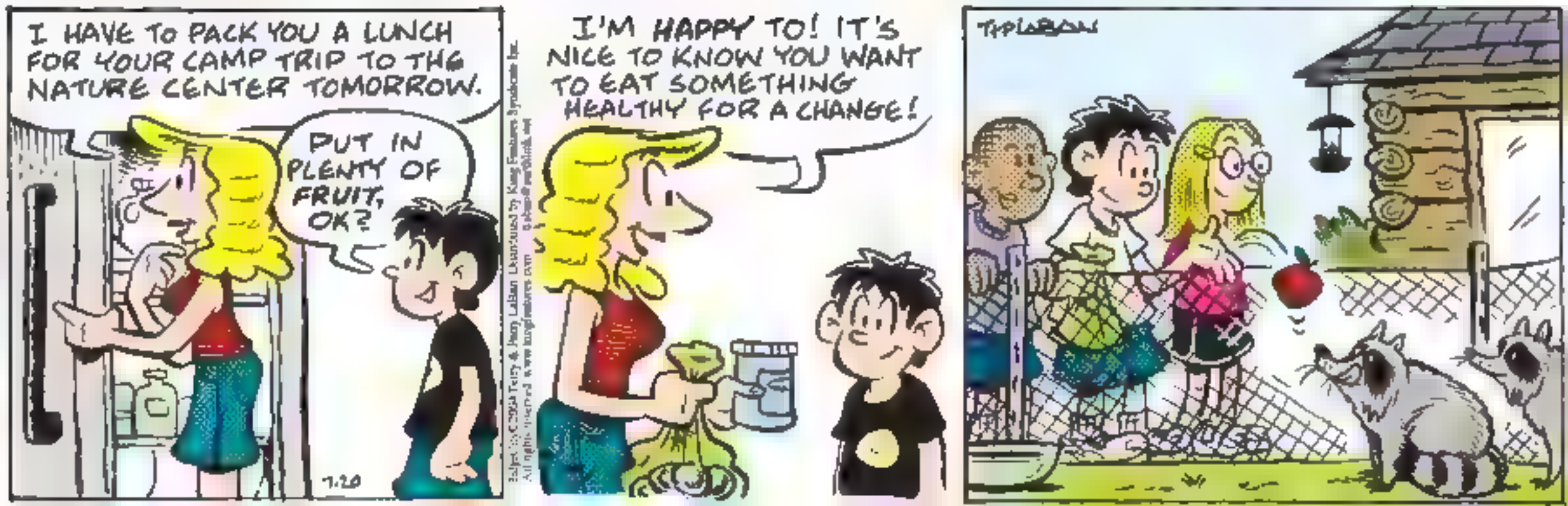

REMEMBER, MEN—STAY IN FORMATION AND HIT THEM WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!

WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL, OPERATION "STING AND AWE" WILL BEGIN!


LEN! LOOK AT ALL THE HORNETS!
OH MY GOSH! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

I SWEAR, WE CAN BARELY EAT OUTSIDE ANYMORE!
I KNOW! IT'S ALMOST LIKE THEY'RE ORGANIZED!


HOW WAS THE PINK FRED CONCERT, LEN?
GREAT! THE BAND WAS A LOT OLDER, OF COURSE. BUT THEY STILL ROCKED!
WAS IT AS MUCH FUN AS YOU REMEMBER IT BEING IN HIGH SCHOOL?
OH, YEAH! IN SOME WAYS, IT WAS EVEN BETTER!
WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, I COULDN'T AFFORD ALL THIS COOL MERCHANDISE!
PINK FRED
PINK FRED
PINK FRED
PINK FRED

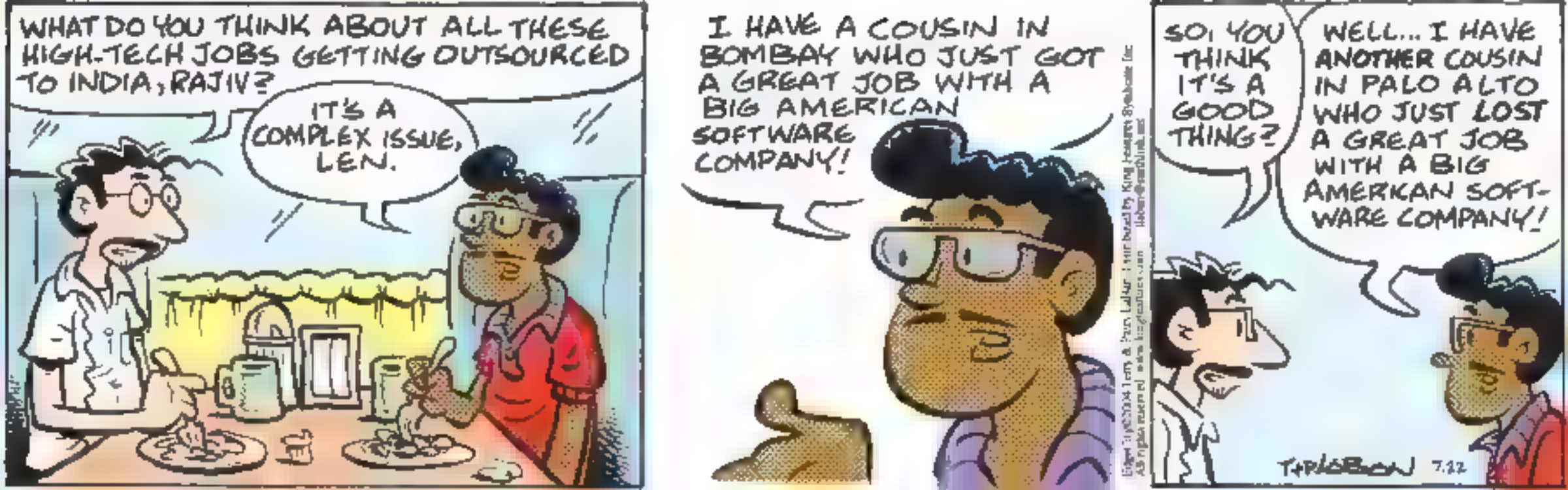

I HAVE TO PACK YOU A LUNCH FOR YOUR CAMP TRIP TO THE NATURE CENTER TOMORROW.
PUT IN PLENTY OF FRUIT, OK?
7-20
I'M HAPPY TO! IT'S NICE TO KNOW YOU WANT TO EAT SOMETHING HEALTHY FOR A CHANGE!

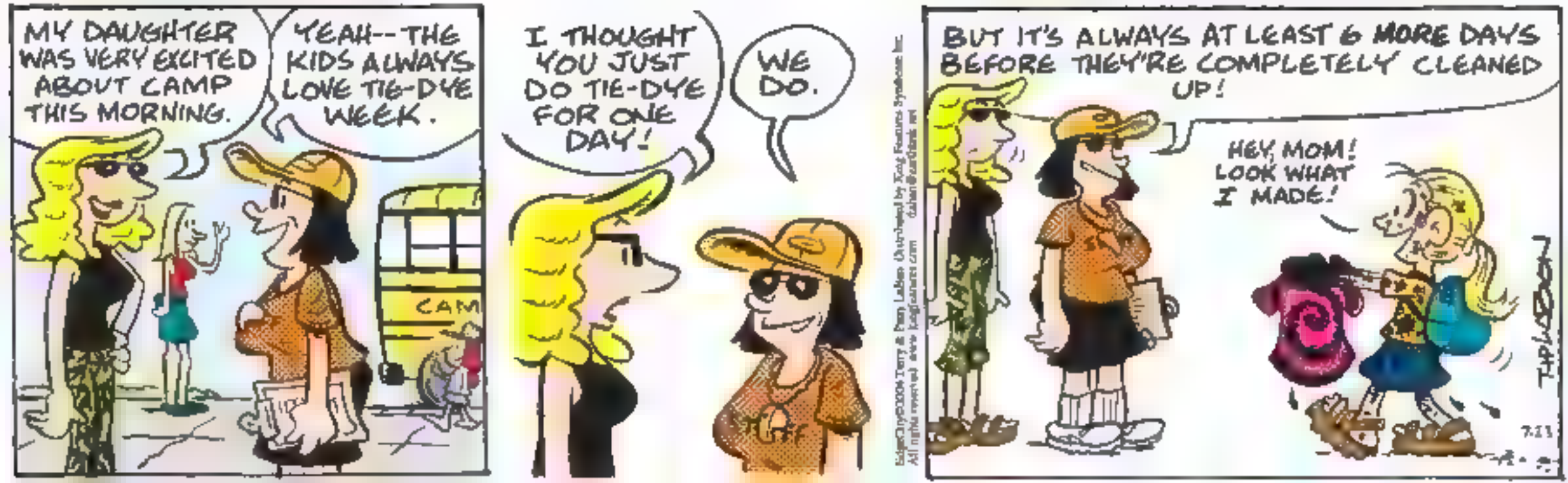
HOW ARE THINGS WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND, RAJIV?
WE BROKE UP, LEN.
DINER

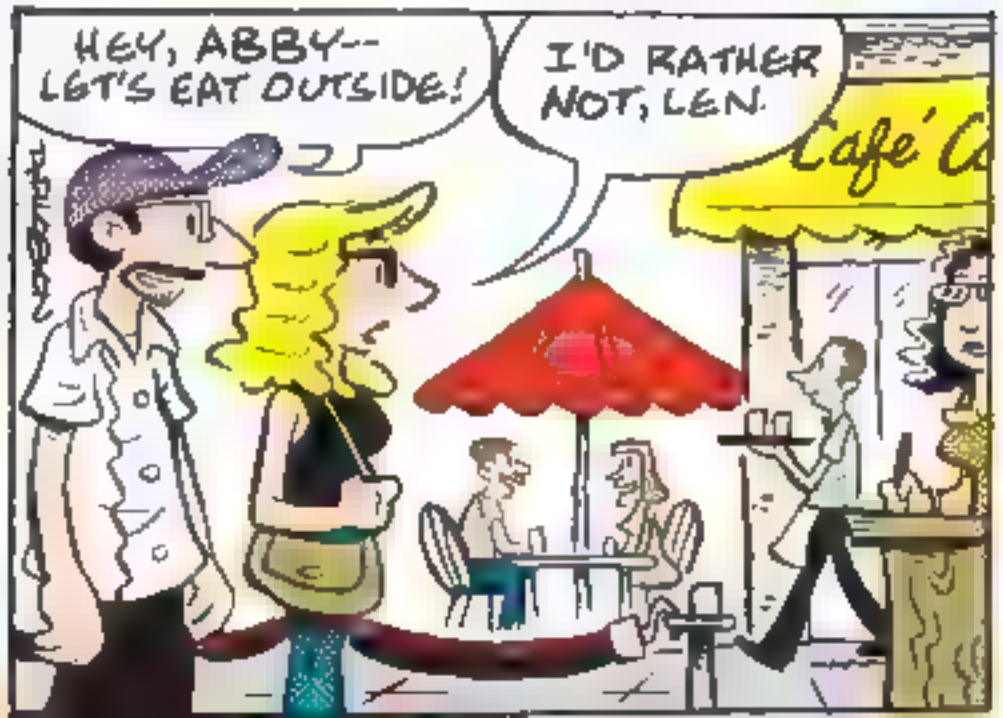
SHE WANTED TO GET MARRIED, AND I'M JUST NOT READY YET.

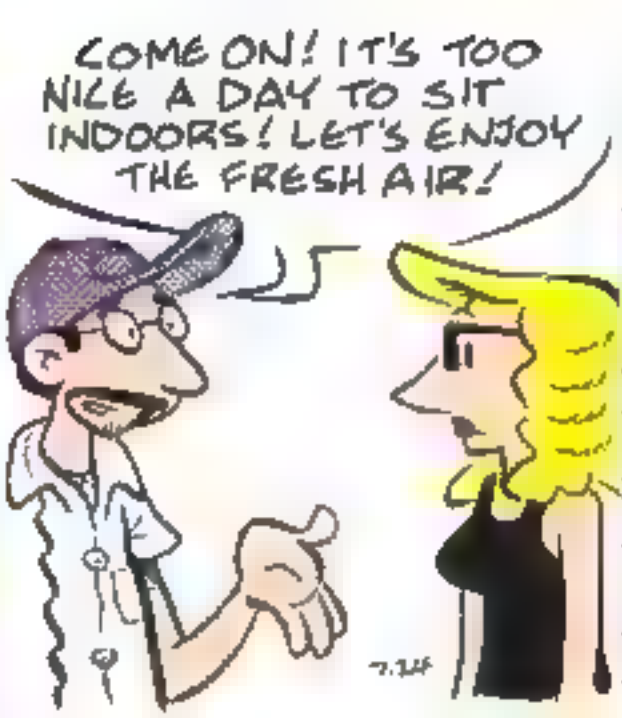
WAS SHE UPSET?
KIND OF. SHE ACCUSED ME OF BEING AFRAID OF COMMITMENT!

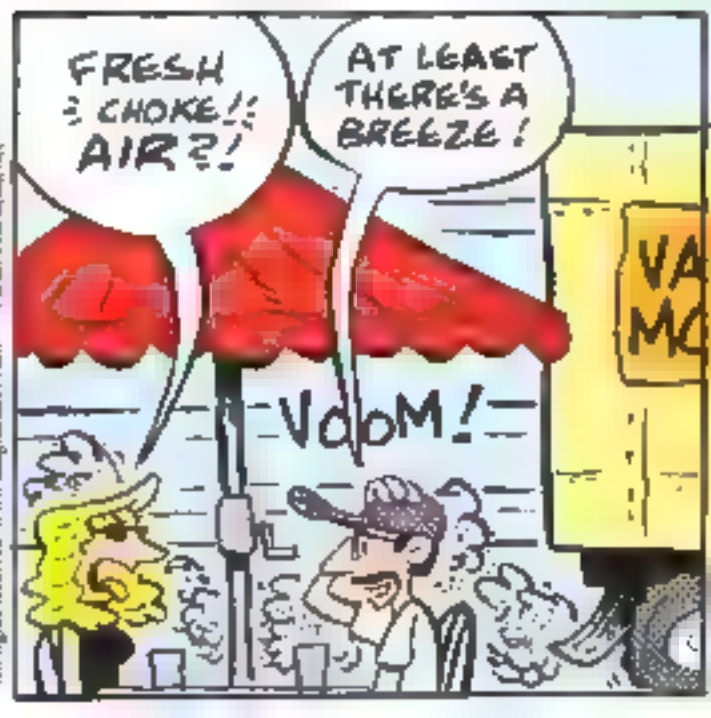
SHE HAS A POINT!
NONSENSE! I'M COMMITTED TO STAYING SINGLE!

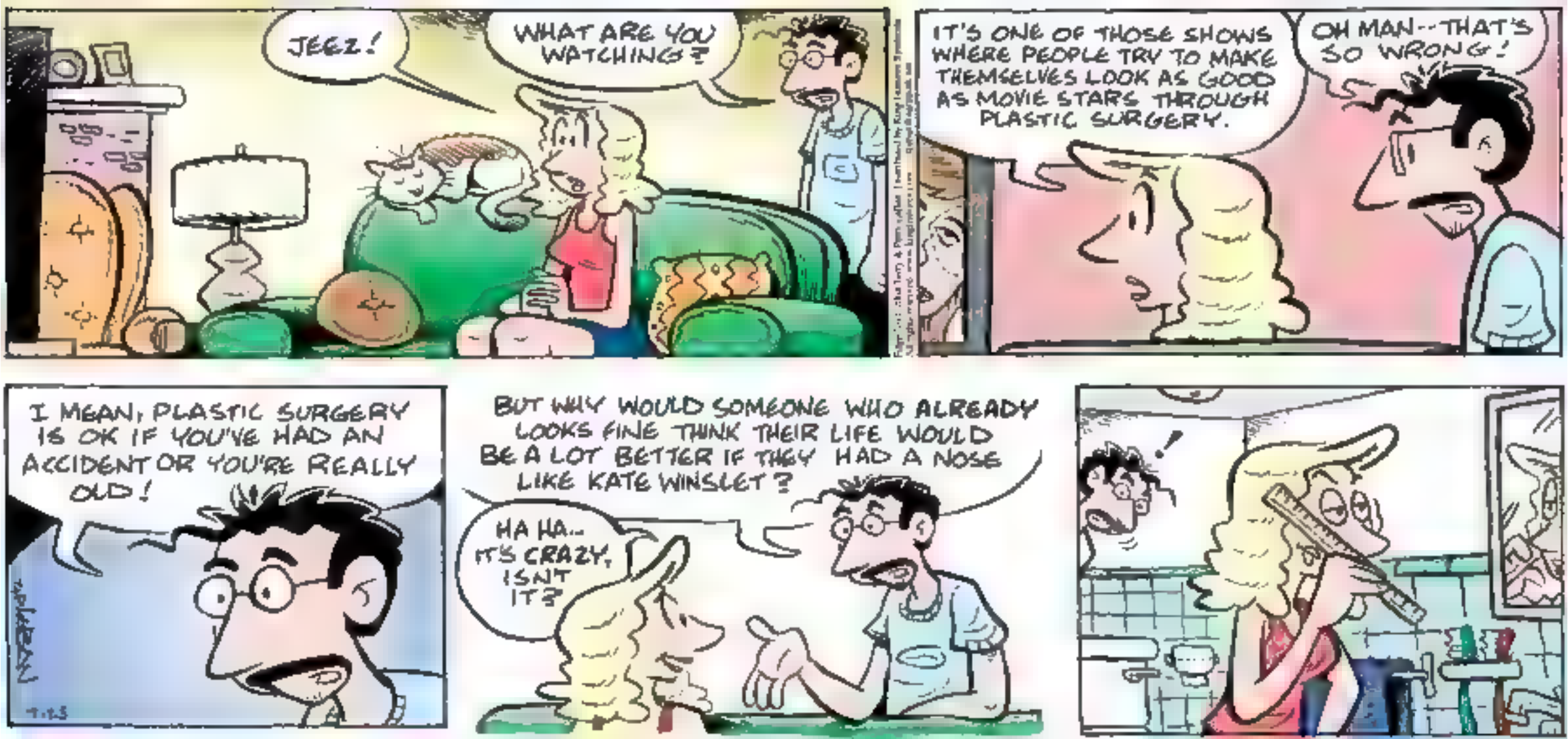

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT ALL THESE HIGH-TECH JOBS GETTING OUTSOURCED TO INDIA, RAJIV?
IT'S A COMPLEX ISSUE, LEN.
I HAVE A COUSIN IN BOMBAY WHO JUST GOT A GREAT JOB WITH A BIG AMERICAN SOFTWARE COMPANY!
SO, YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD THING?
WELL... I HAVE ANOTHER COUSIN IN PALO ALTO WHO JUST LOST A GREAT JOB WITH A BIG AMERICAN SOFTWARE COMPANY!
7.12

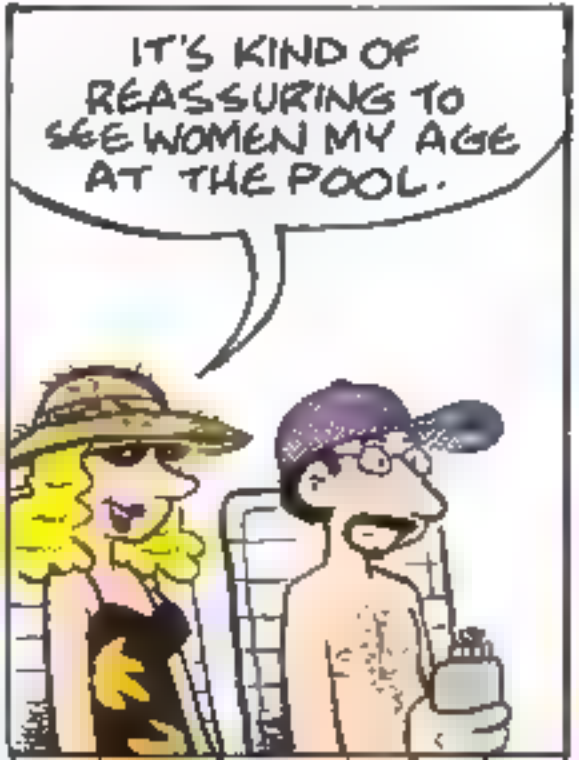

MY DAUGHTER WAS VERY EXCITED ABOUT CAMP THIS MORNING.
YEAH--THE KIDS ALWAYS LOVE TIE-DYE WEEK.
CAM
I THOUGHT YOU JUST DO TIE-DYE FOR ONE DAY!
WE DO.
BUT IT'S ALWAYS AT LEAST 6 MORE DAYS BEFORE THEY'RE COMPLETELY CLEANED UP!
HEY, MOM! LOOK WHAT I MADE!
THPWSON


HEY, ABBY-- LET'S EAT OUTSIDE!
I'D RATHER NOT, LEN.
Cafe'


COME ON! IT'S TOO NICE A DAY TO SIT INDOORS! LET'S ENJOY THE FRESH AIR!


FRESH ? CHOKE!! AIR?!
AT LEAST THERE'S A BREEZE!
VOOM!


JEEZ!
WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?
IT'S ONE OF THOSE SHOWS WHERE PEOPLE TRY TO MAKE THEMSELVES LOOK AS GOOD AS MOVIE STARS THROUGH PLASTIC SURGERY.
OH MAN--THAT'S SO WRONG!
I MEAN, PLASTIC SURGERY IS OK IF YOU'VE HAD AN ACCIDENT OR YOU'RE REALLY OLD!
BUT WHY WOULD SOMEONE WHO ALREADY LOOKS FINE THINK THEIR LIFE WOULD BE A LOT BETTER IF THEY HAD A NOSE LIKE KATE WINSLET?
HA HA... IT'S CRAZY, ISN'T IT?



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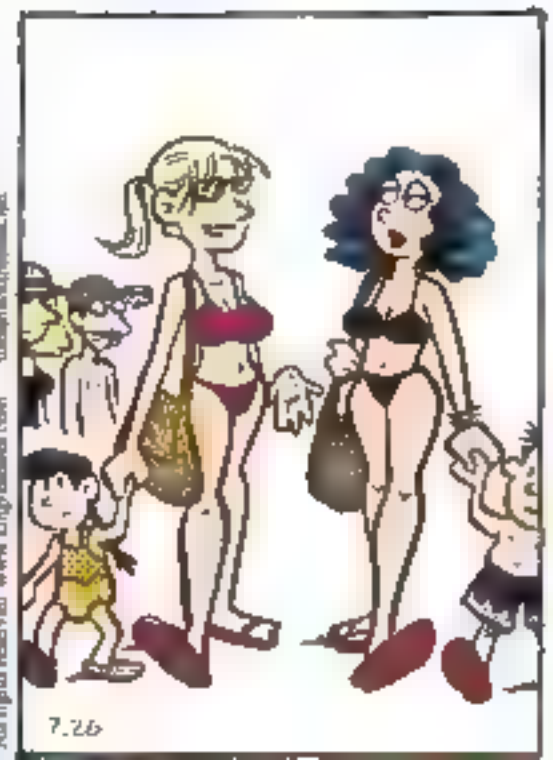
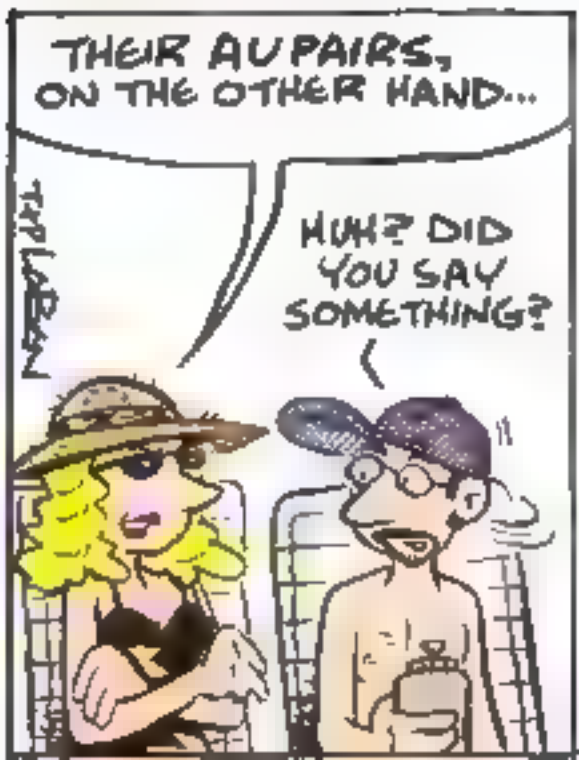
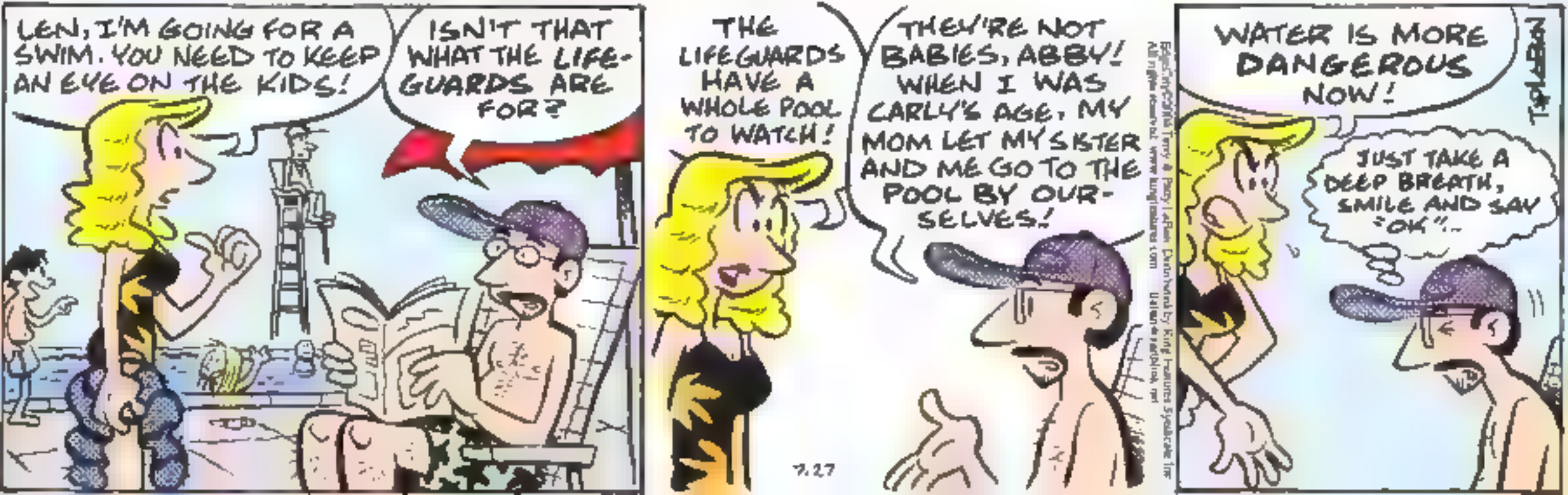
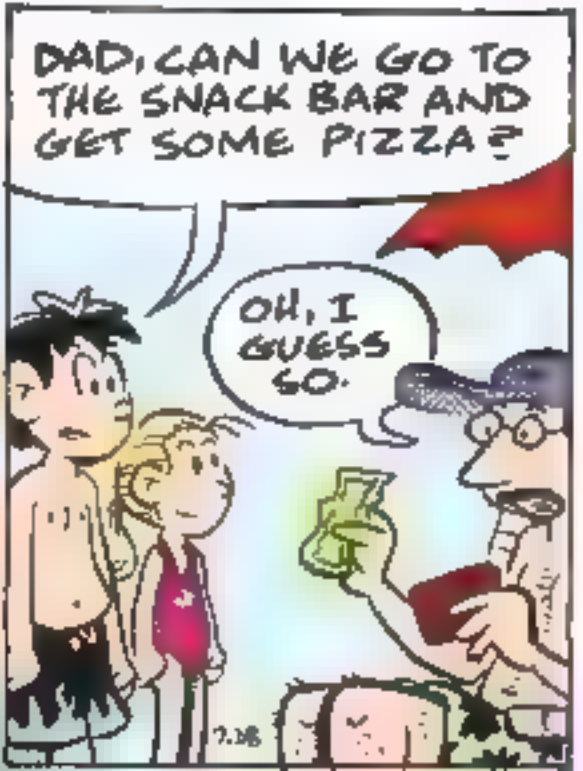
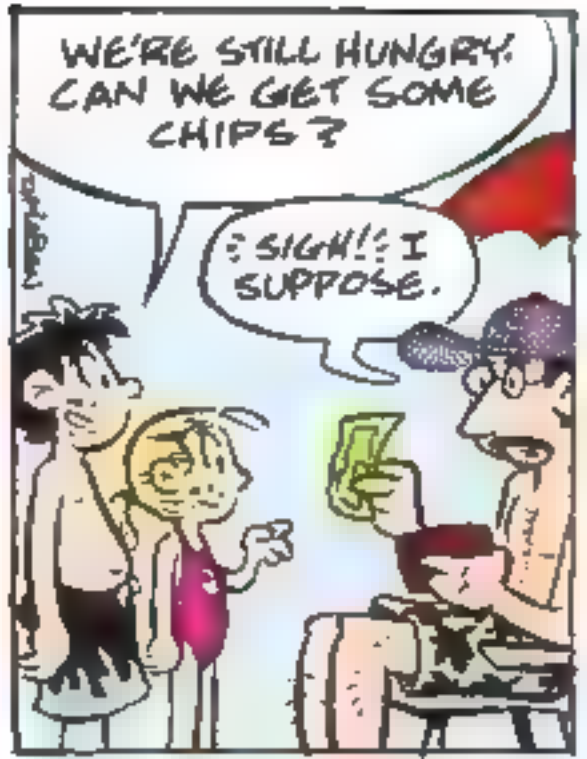





LEN, I'M GOING FOR A SWIM. YOU NEED TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE KIDS!
ISN'T THAT WHAT THE LIFE-GUARDS ARE FOR?
THE LIFEGUARDS HAVE A WHOLE POOL TO WATCH!
THEY'RE NOT BABIES, ABBY! WHEN I WAS CARLY'S AGE, MY MOM LET MY SISTER AND ME GO TO THE POOL BY OUR-SELVES!
7.27
WATER IS MORE DANGEROUS NOW!
JUST TAKE A DEEP BREATH, SMILE AND SAY "OK"...
TOMLIN





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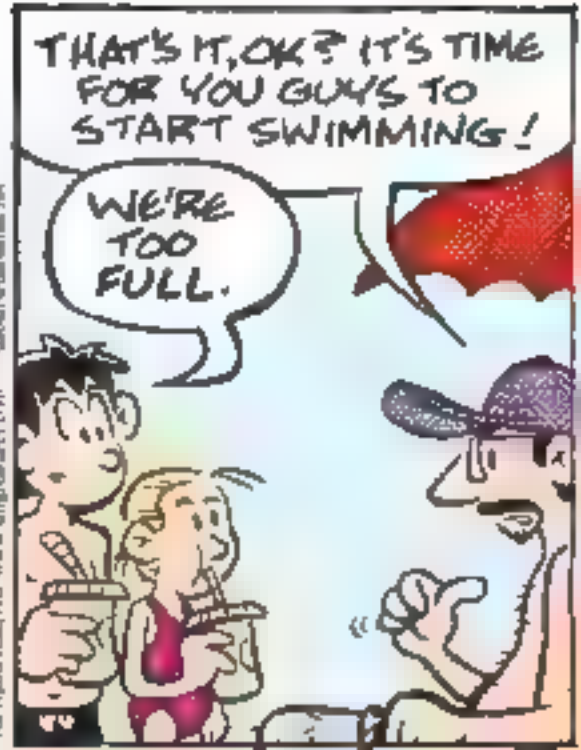
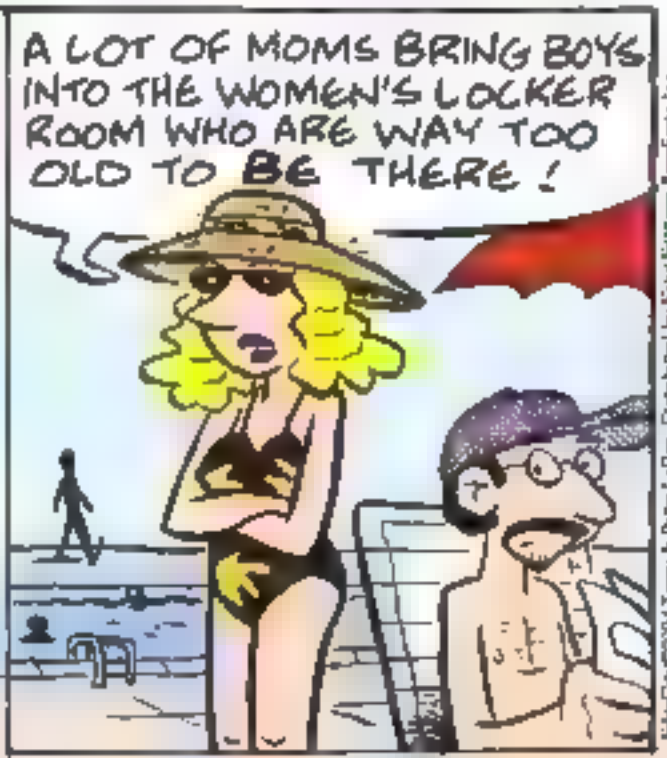
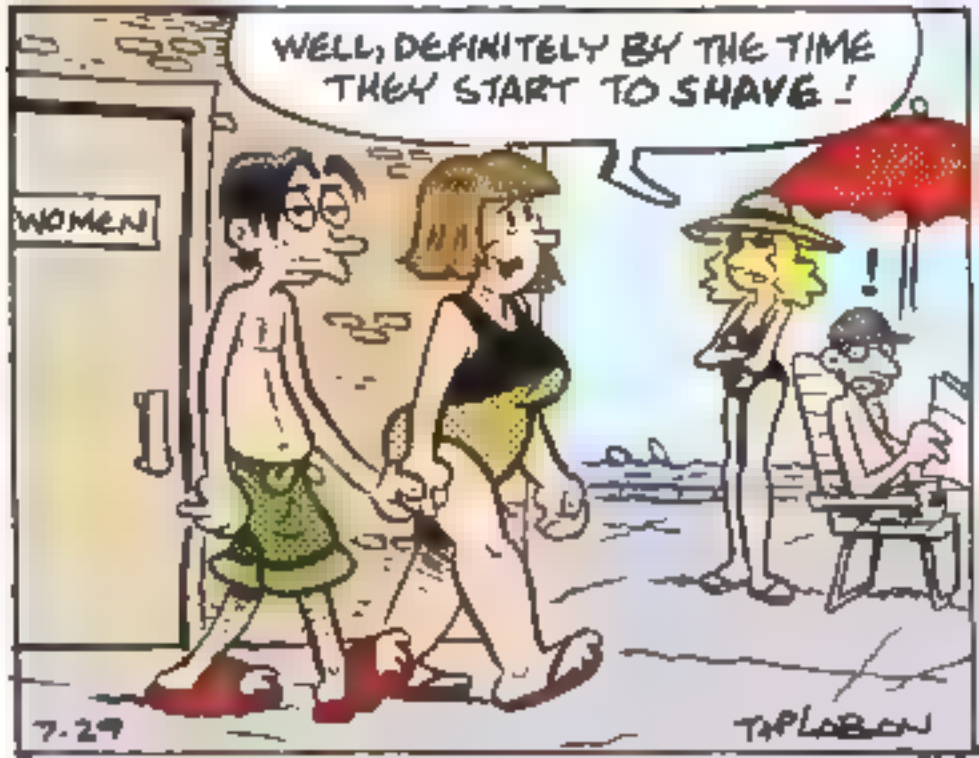
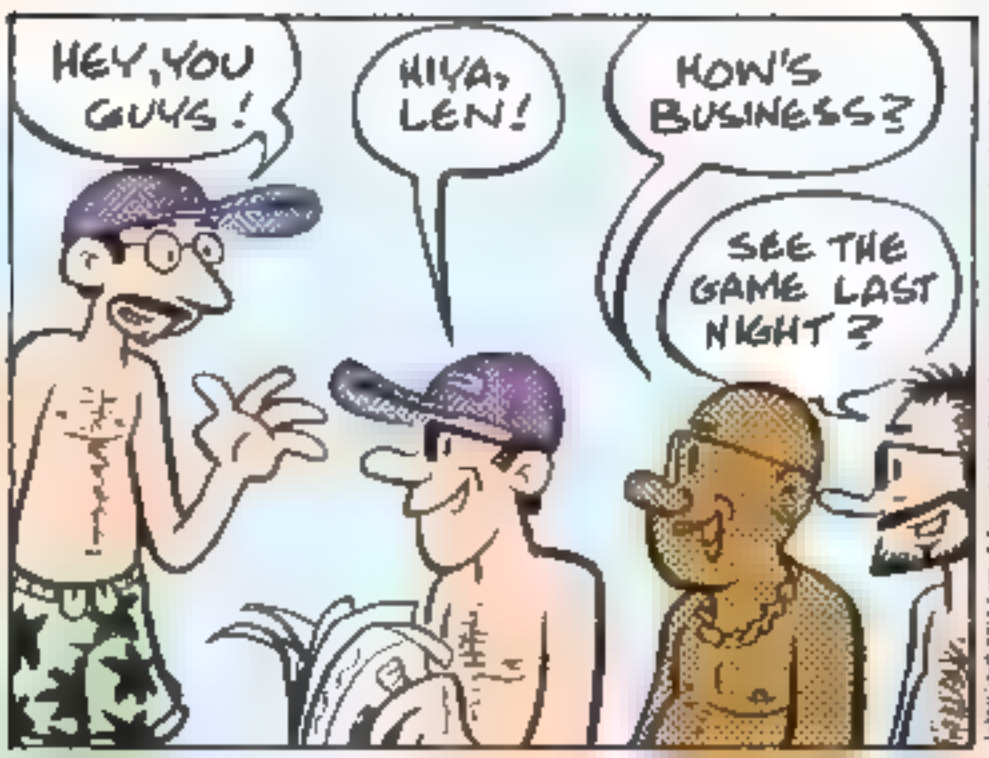
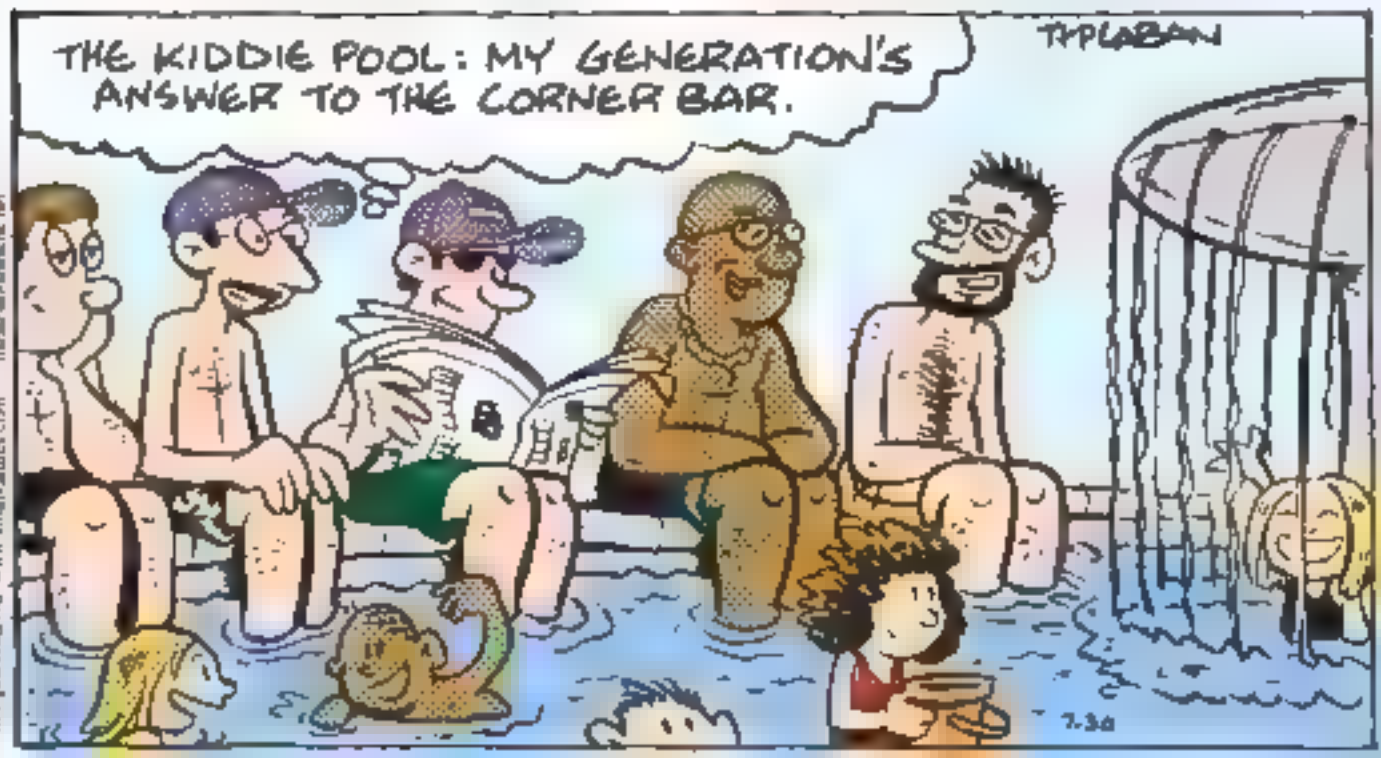


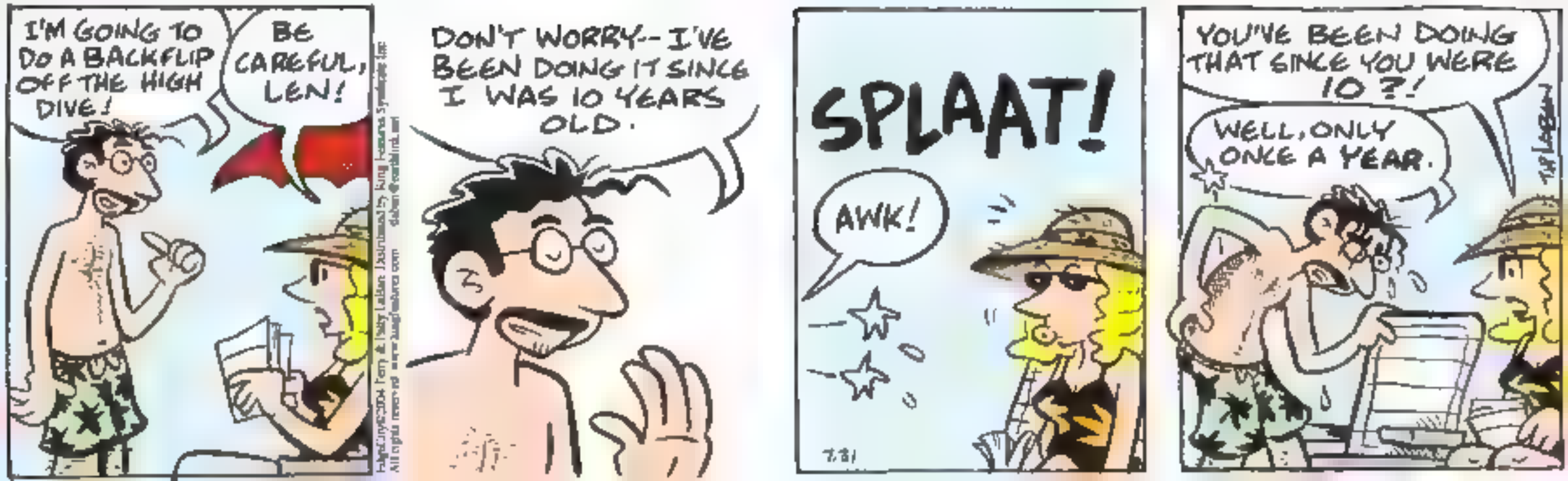

A LOT OF MOMS BRING BOYS INTO THE WOMEN'S LOCKER ROOM WHO ARE WAY TOO OLD TO BE THERE!

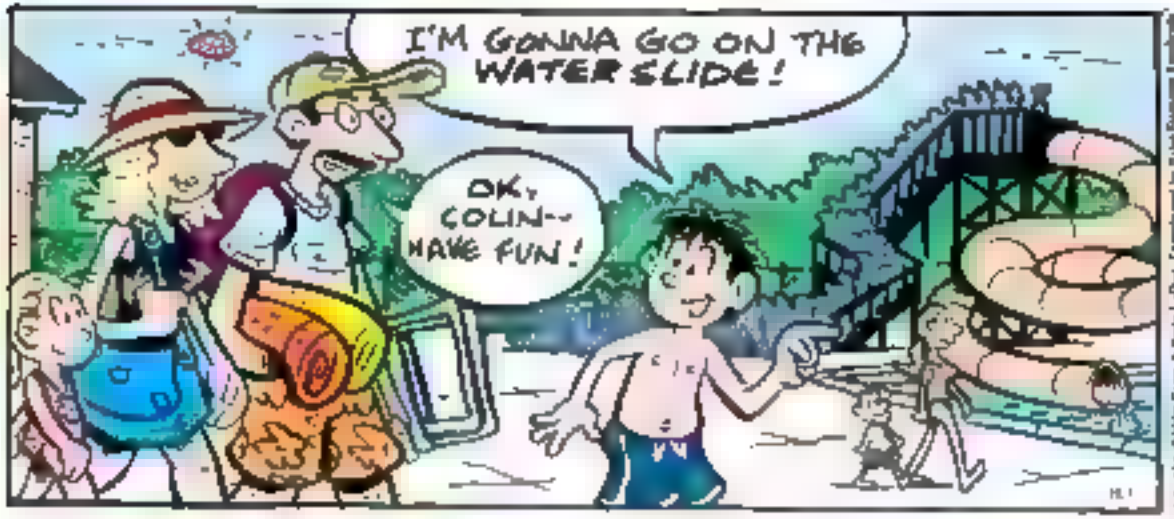
THERE COMES A TIME WHEN YOU HAVE TO TRUST KIDS TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES!
BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN THAT IS?

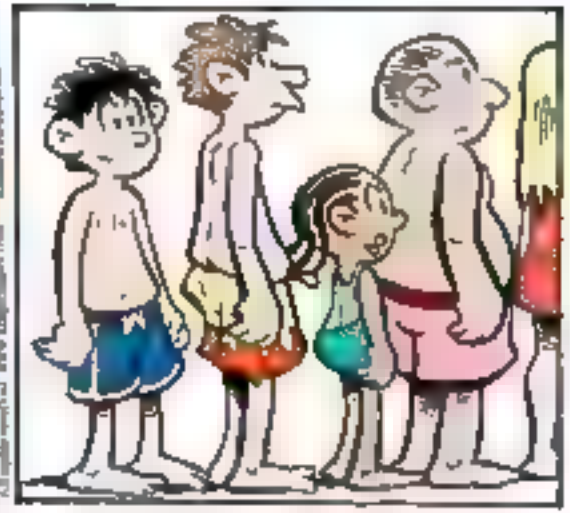

WELL, DEFINITELY BY THE TIME THEY START TO SHAVE!
WOMEN
!
7-29
TAPLOBON

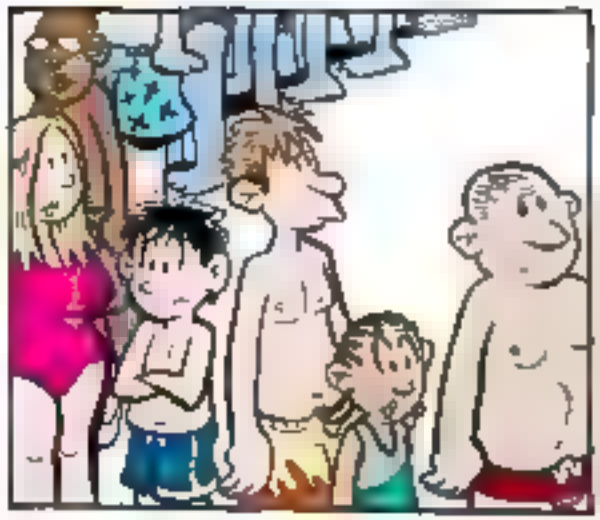

HEY, YOU GUYS!
HIYA, LEN!
HOW'S BUSINESS?
SEE THE GAME LAST NIGHT?

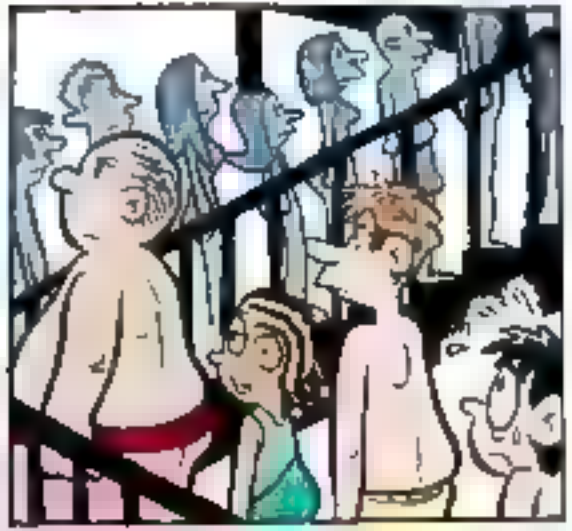

THE KIDDIE POOL: MY GENERATION'S ANSWER TO THE CORNER BAR.
TYPLABAN
7-30

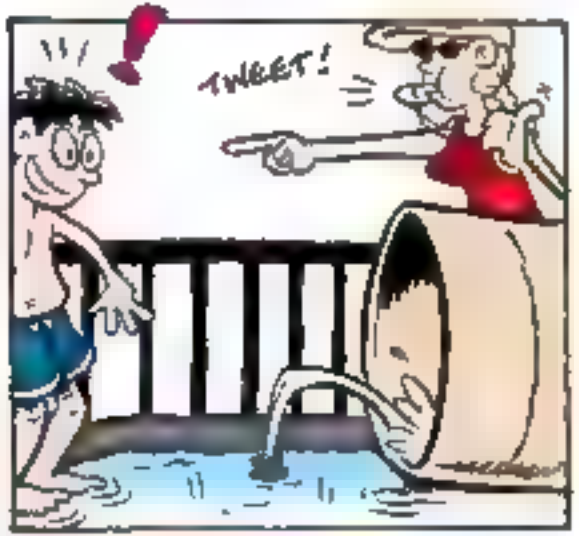

I'M GOING TO DO A BACKFLIP OFF THE HIGH DIVE!
BE CAREFUL, LEN!
DON'T WORRY-- I'VE BEEN DOING IT SINCE I WAS 10 YEARS OLD.
SPLAAT!
AWK!
YOU'VE BEEN DOING THAT SINCE YOU WERE 10?!
WELL, ONLY ONCE A YEAR.


I'M GONNA GO ON THE WATER SLIDE!
OK, COLIN-- HAVE FUN!

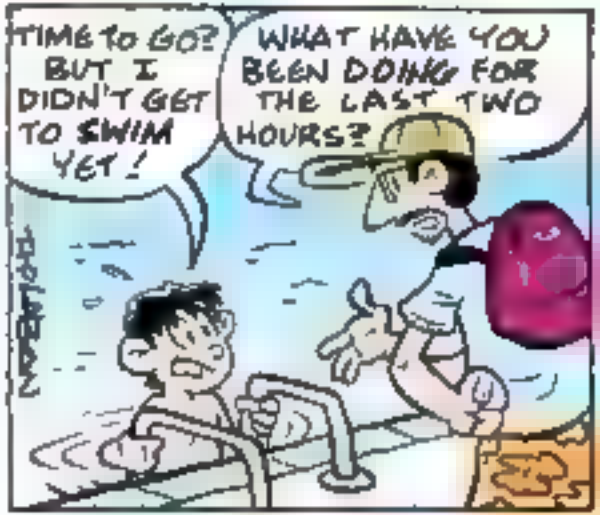




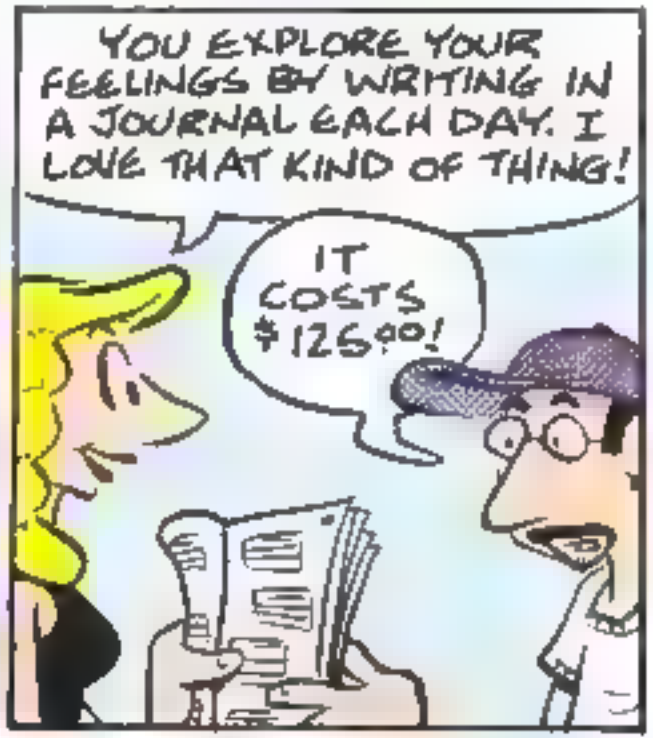



TWEET!

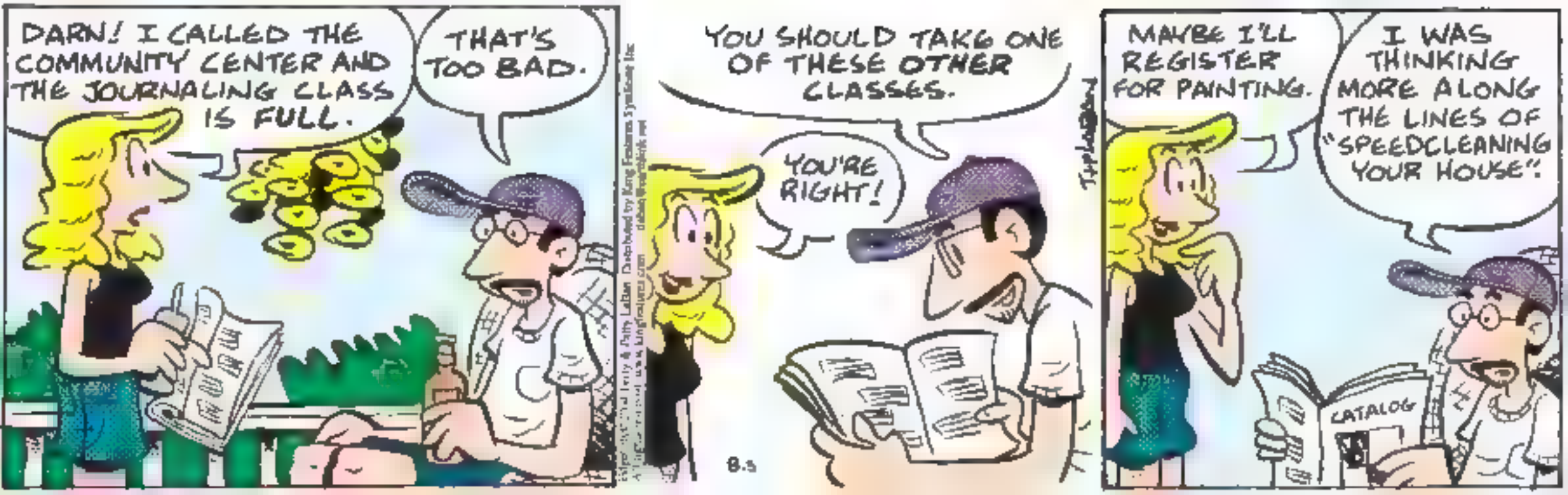
SPLASH!

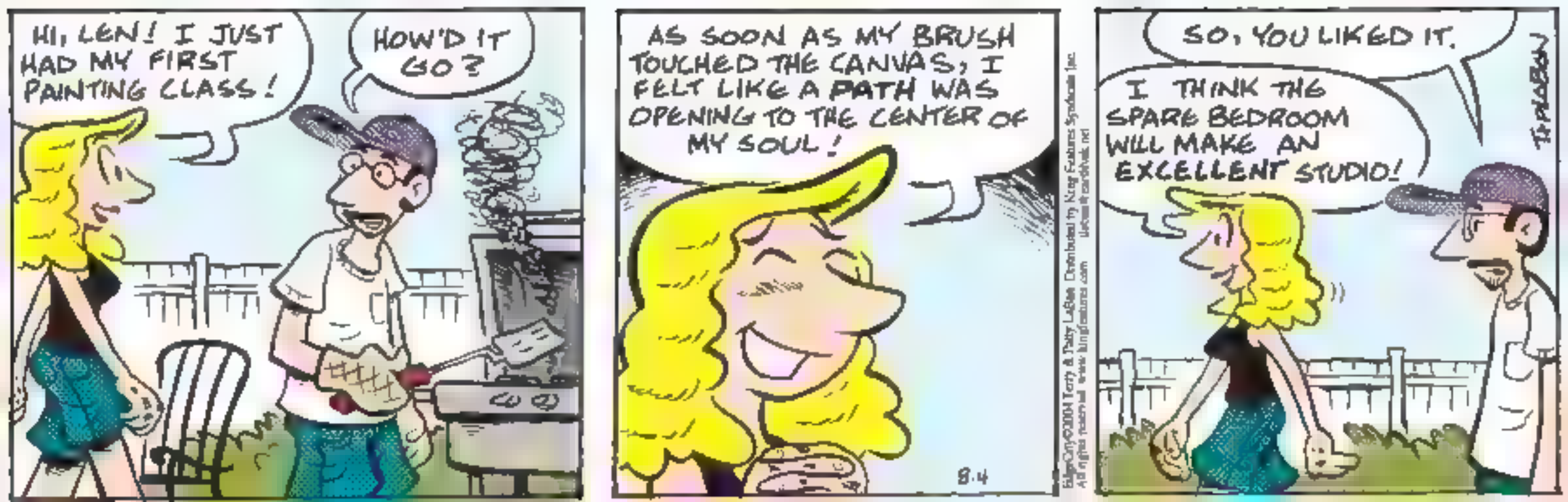

TIME TO GO? BUT I DIDN'T GET TO SWIM YET!
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING FOR THE LAST TWO HOURS?

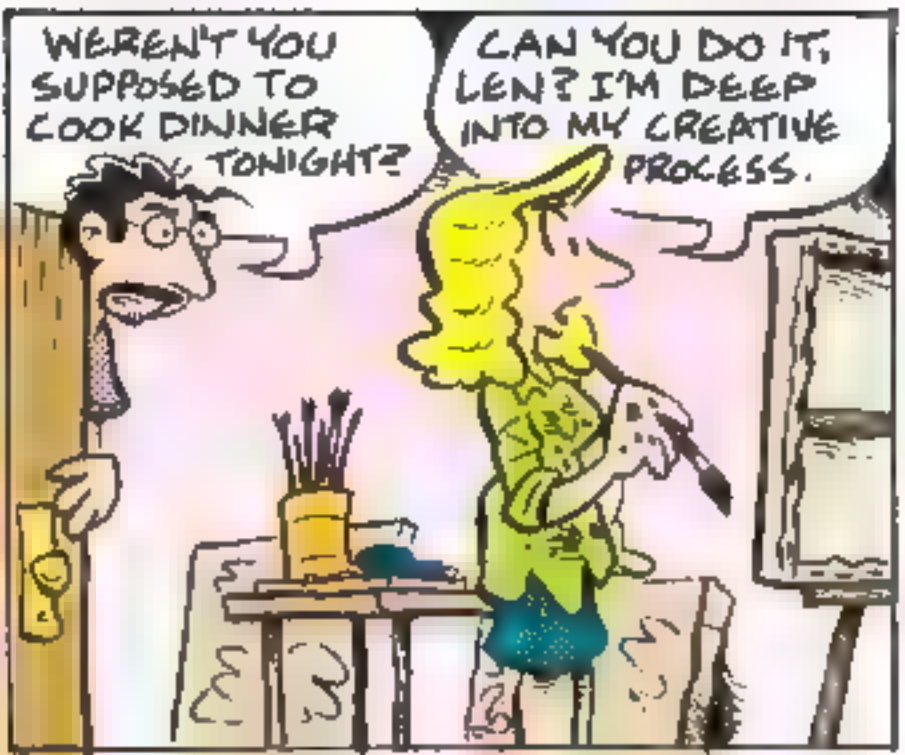
I'D LIKE TO SIGN UP FOR A JOURNALING CLASS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER.
JOURNALING?


YOU EXPLORE YOUR FEELINGS BY WRITING IN A JOURNAL EACH DAY. I LOVE THAT KIND OF THING!
IT COSTS $125.00!

SO? YOU DON'T THINK I SHOULD TAKE IT?
I THINK YOU SHOULD TEACH IT!

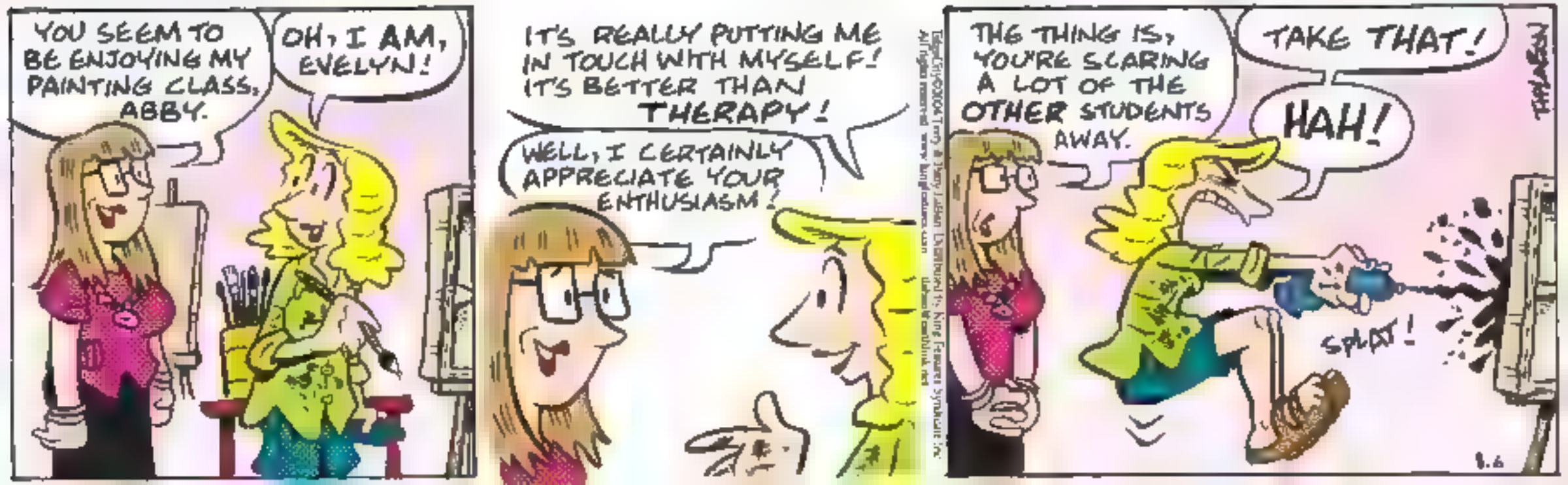

DARN! I CALLED THE COMMUNITY CENTER AND THE JOURNALING CLASS IS FULL.
THAT'S TOO BAD.
YOU SHOULD TAKE ONE OF THESE OTHER CLASSES.
YOU'RE RIGHT!
MAYBE I'LL REGISTER FOR PAINTING.
I WAS THINKING MORE ALONG THE LINES OF "SPEEDCLEANING YOUR HOUSE".
CATALOG


HI, LEN! I JUST HAD MY FIRST PAINTING CLASS!
HOW'D IT GO?
AS SOON AS MY BRUSH TOUCHED THE CANVAS, I FELT LIKE A PATH WAS OPENING TO THE CENTER OF MY SOUL!
8.4
SO, YOU LIKED IT.
I THINK THE SPARE BEDROOM WILL MAKE AN EXCELLENT STUDIO!
TP PALBOW


WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO COOK DINNER TONIGHT?
CAN YOU DO IT, LEN? I'M DEEP INTO MY CREATIVE PROCESS.

I'M GLAD YOU LIKE PAINTING. BUT DON'T NEGLECT YOUR OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES!
I'M DISCOVERING MYSELF! SO WHAT IF I BLOW OFF A FEW CHORES?

OH-- YOUR RECEPTIONIST CALLED. IF YOU DON'T SHOW UP FOR WORK SOON, THEY'LL RENT OUT YOUR OFFICE.
CAN I PLEASE HAVE A LITTLE PEACE?
B.S
T.PLABAN


YOU SEEM TO BE ENJOYING MY PAINTING CLASS, ABBY.
OH, I AM, EVELYN!
IT'S REALLY PUTTING ME IN TOUCH WITH MYSELF! IT'S BETTER THAN THERAPY!
WELL, I CERTAINLY APPRECIATE YOUR ENTHUSIASM!
THE THING IS, YOU'RE SCARING A LOT OF THE OTHER STUDENTS AWAY.
TAKE THAT!
HAH!
SPLAT!
THALEN

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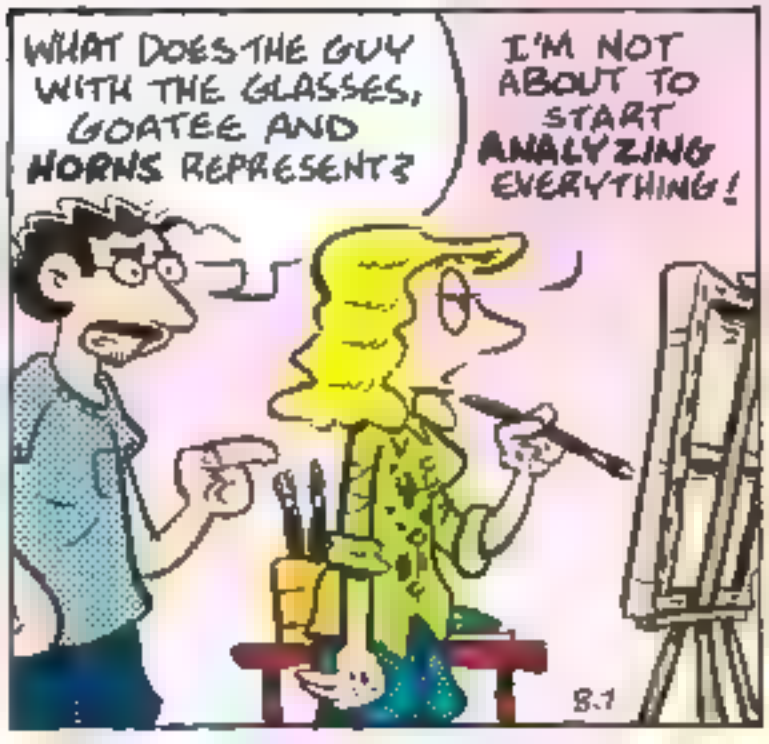
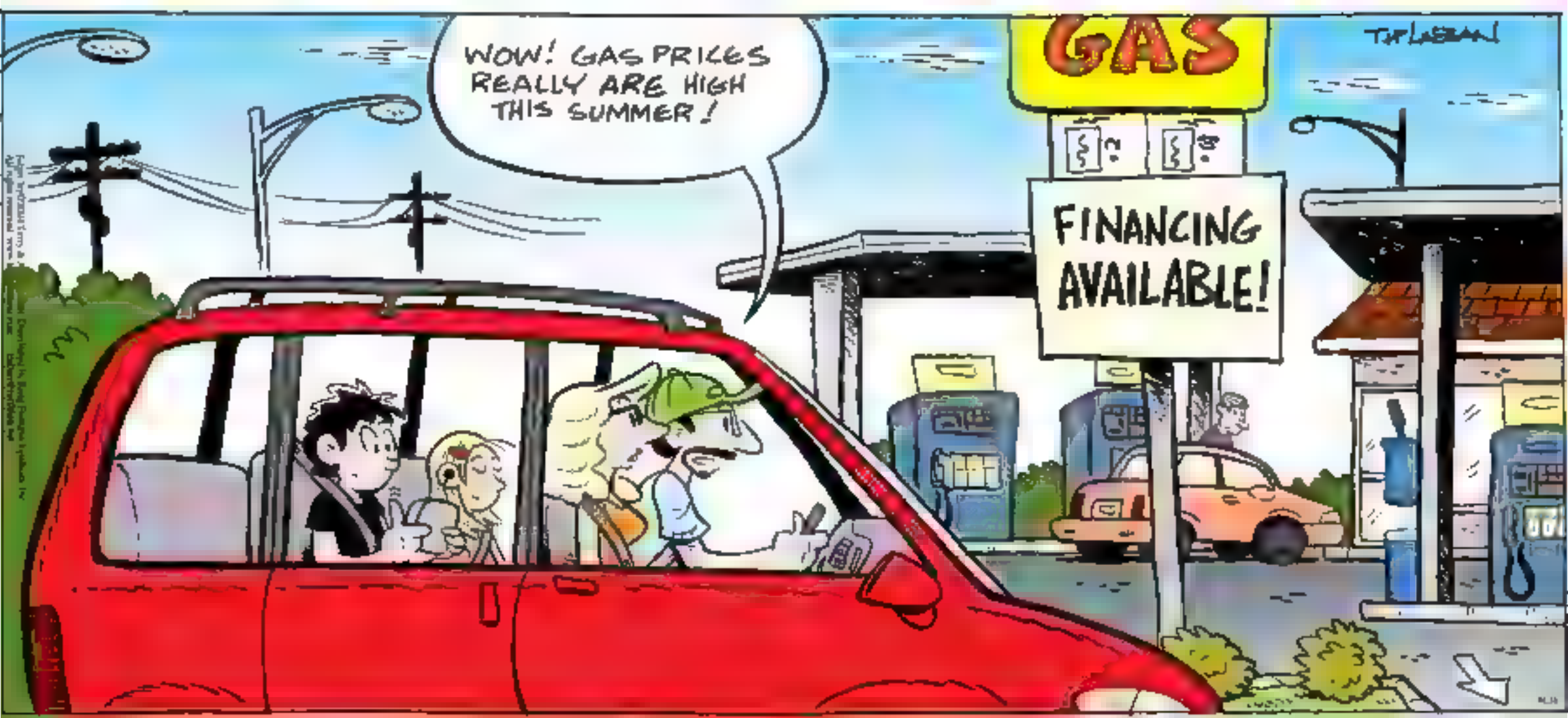
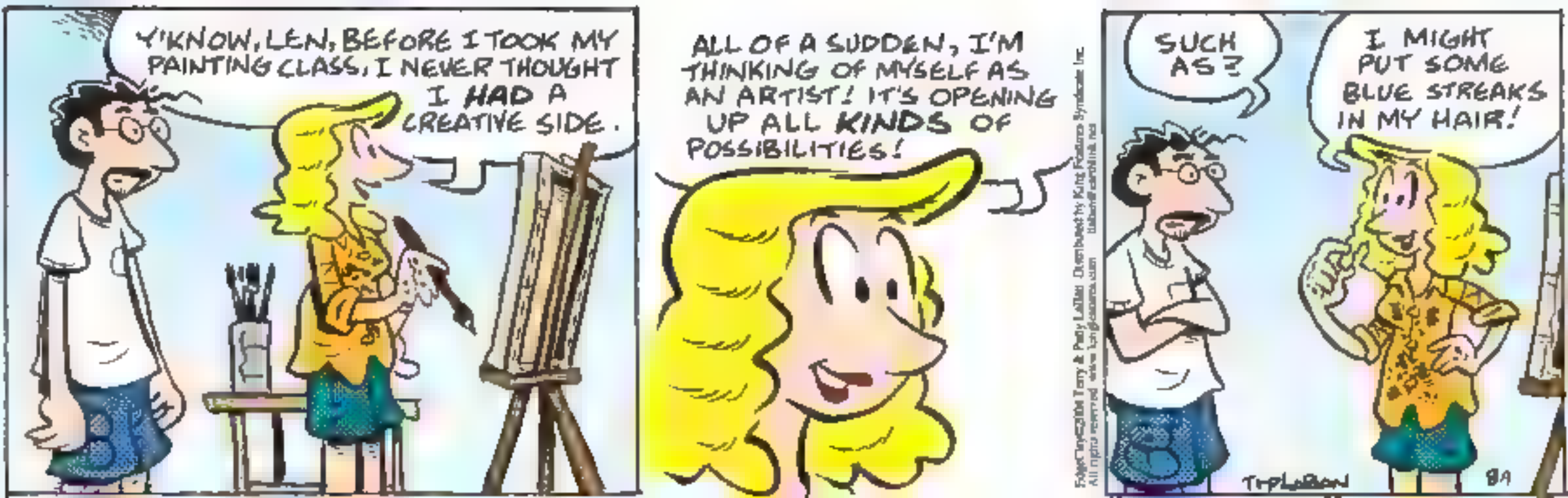
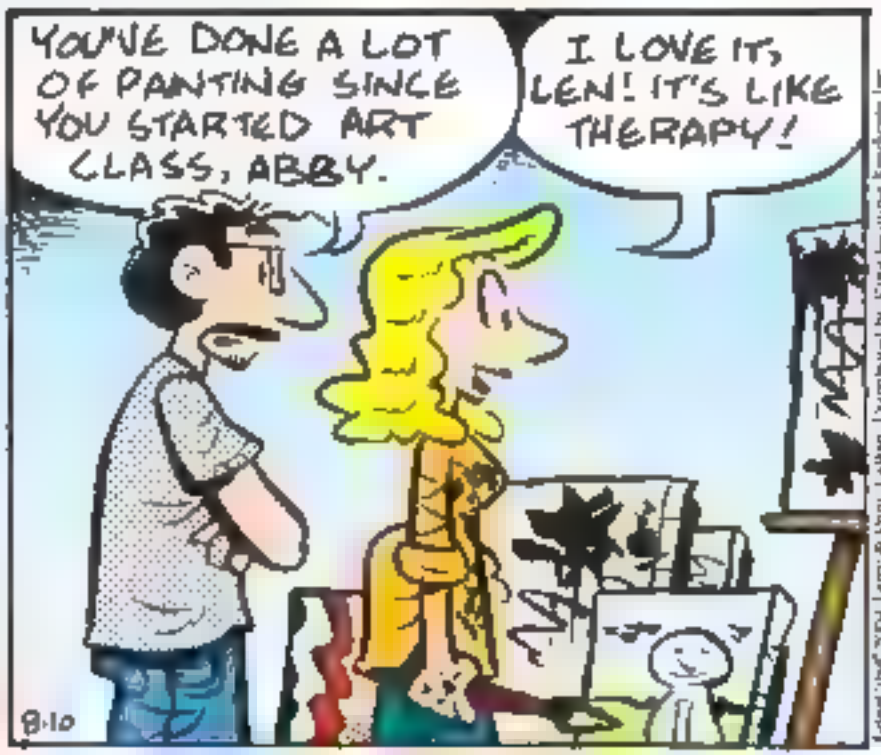



WOW! GAS PRICES REALLY ARE HIGH THIS SUMMER!
GAS
FINANCING AVAILABLE!
TIM LABRAM


Y'KNOW, LEN, BEFORE I TOOK MY PAINTING CLASS, I NEVER THOUGHT I HAD A CREATIVE SIDE.
ALL OF A SUDDEN, I'M THINKING OF MYSELF AS AN ARTIST! IT'S OPENING UP ALL KINDS OF POSSIBILITIES!
SUCH AS?
I MIGHT PUT SOME BLUE STREAKS IN MY HAIR!
TRIPLUSON
9A



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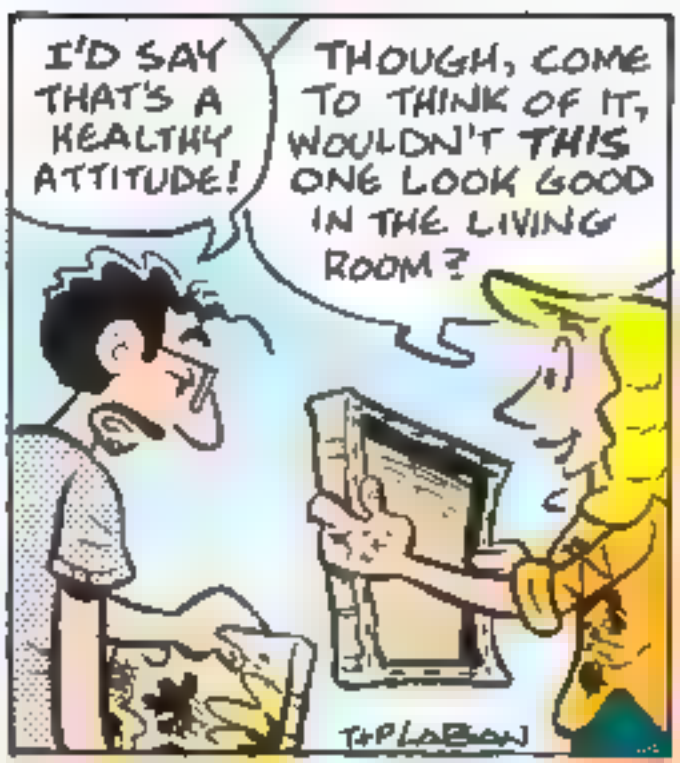
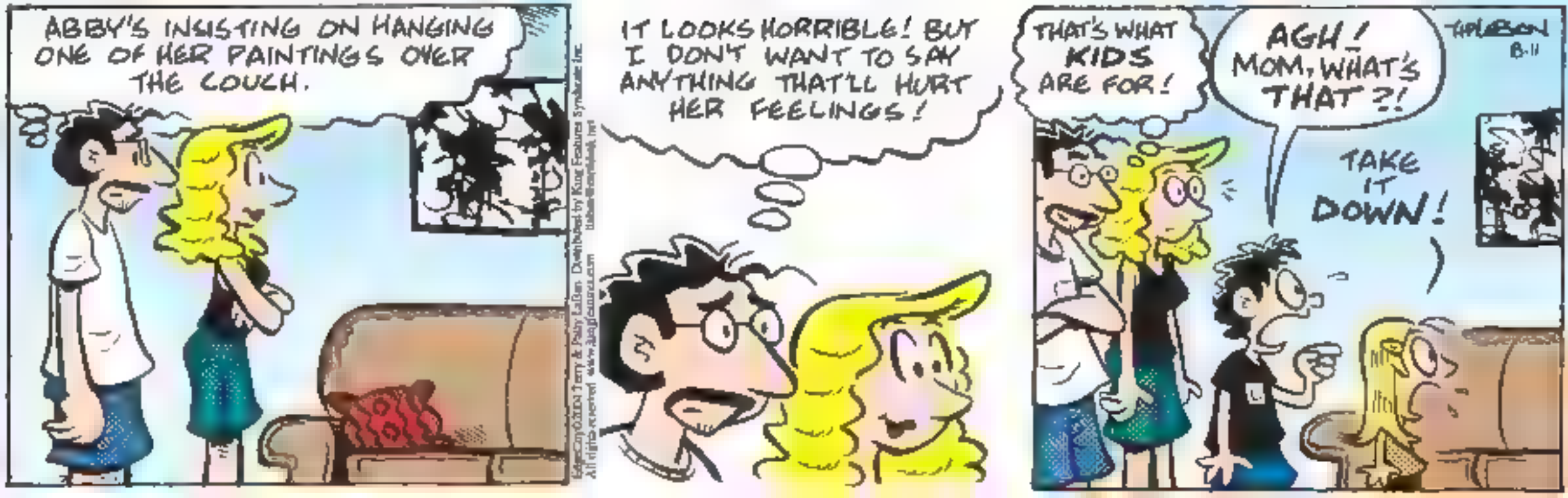
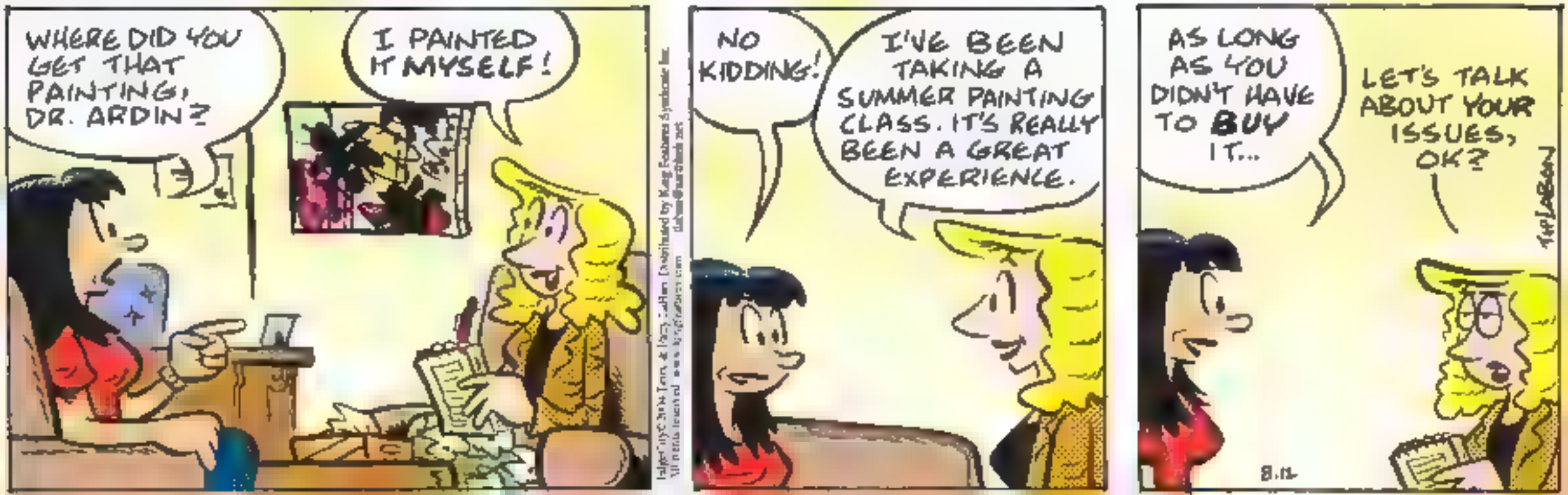
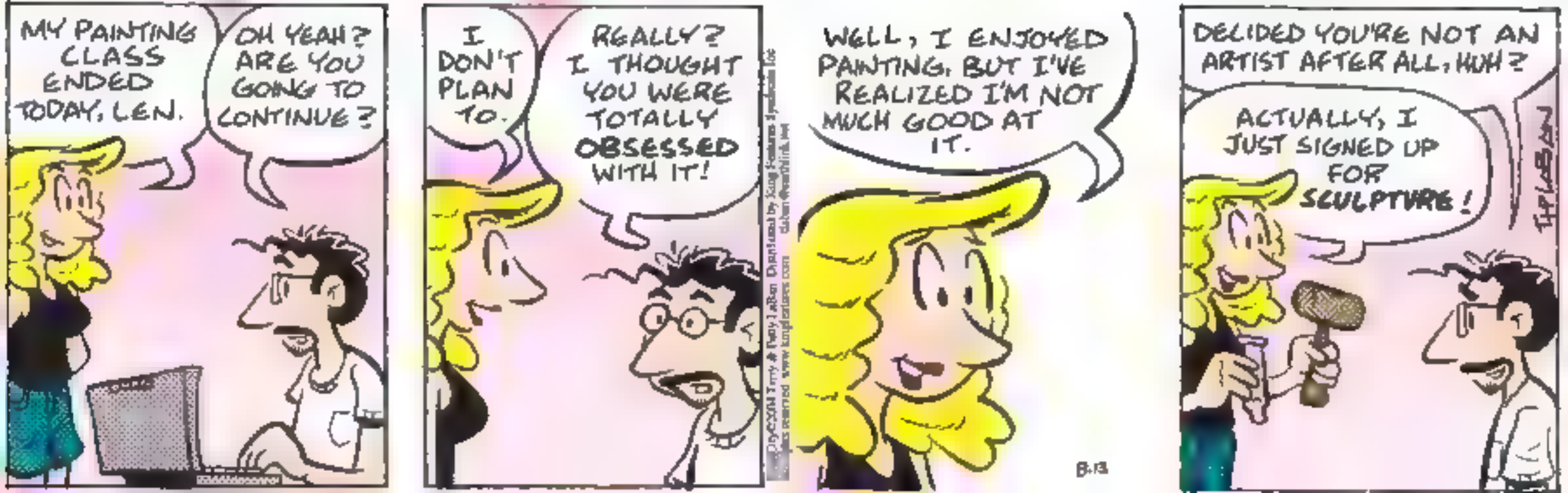
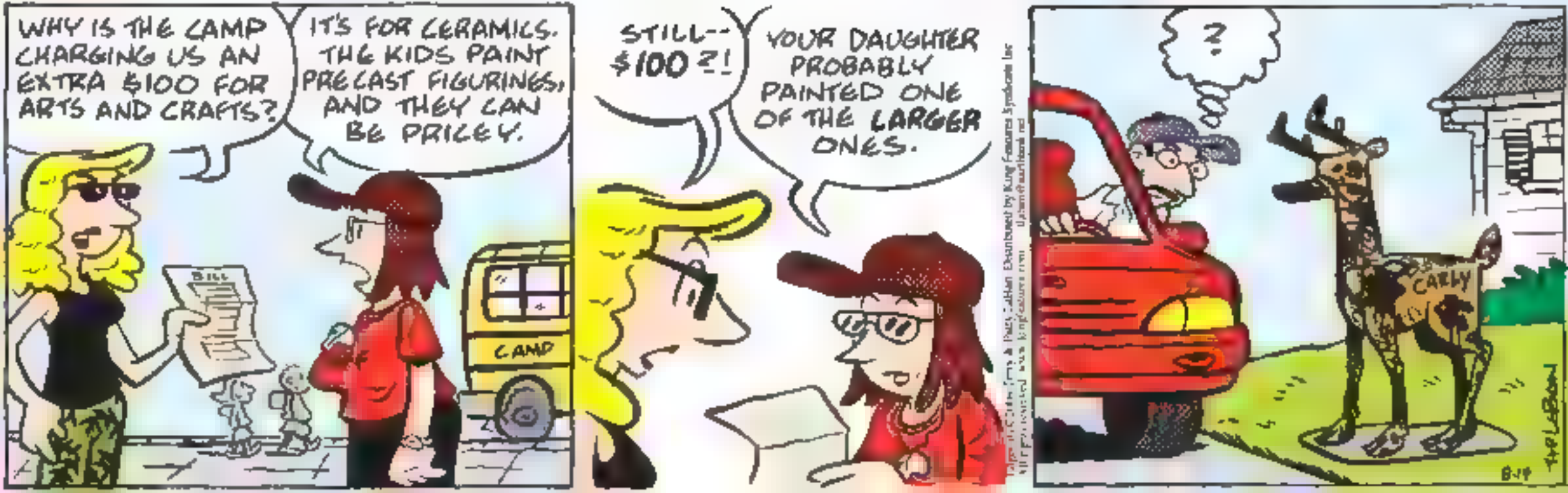
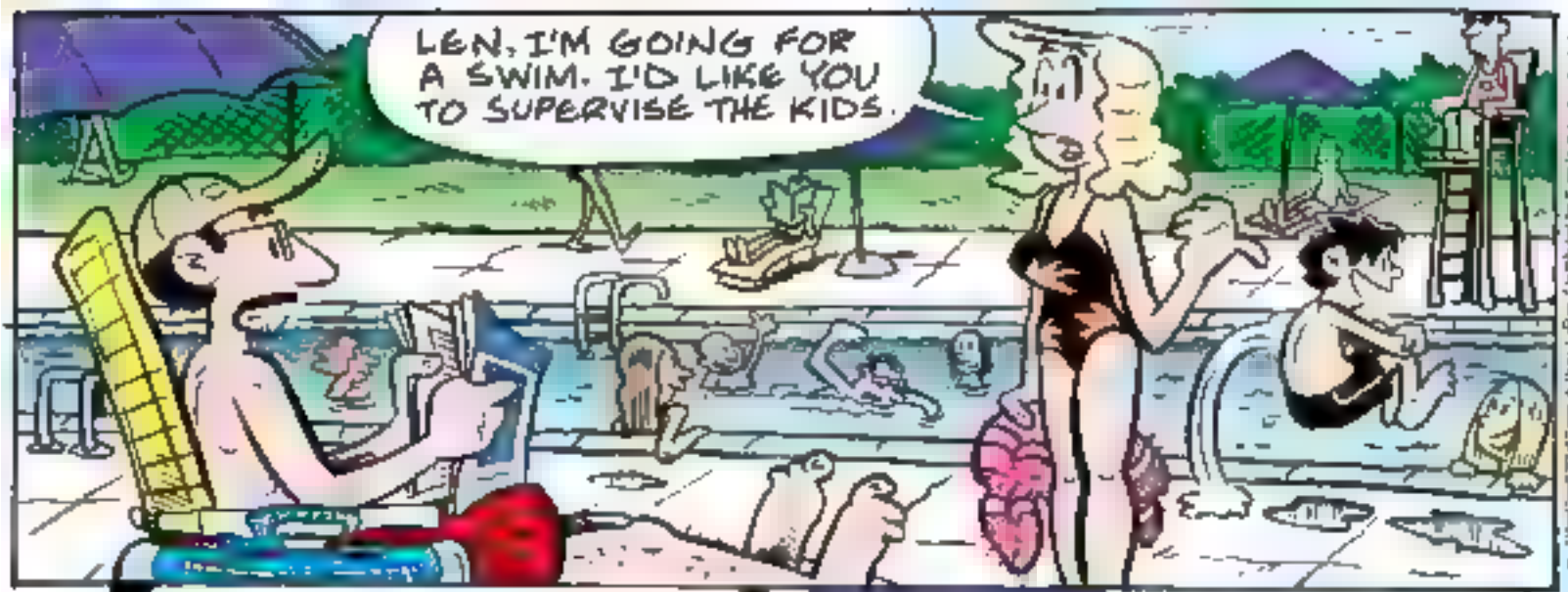


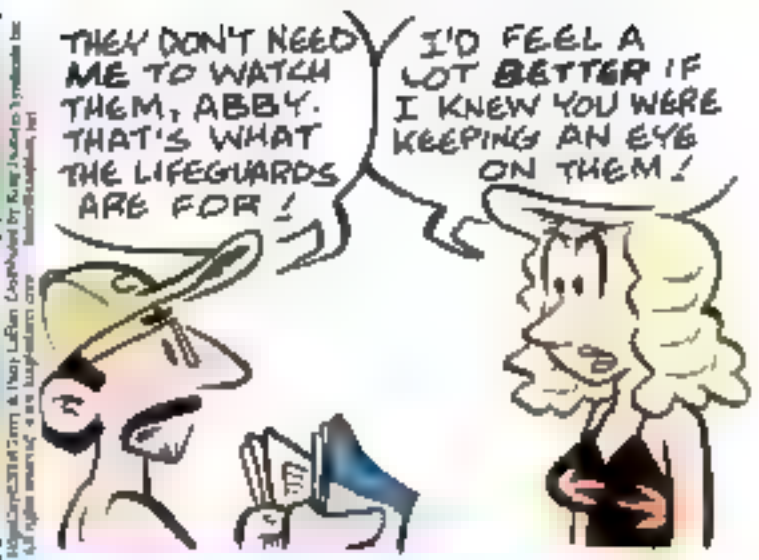

ABBY'S INSISTING ON HANGING ONE OF HER PAINTINGS OVER THE COUCH.
IT LOOKS HORRIBLE! BUT I DON'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING THAT'LL HURT HER FEELINGS!
THAT'S WHAT KIDS ARE FOR!
AGH! MOM, WHAT'S THAT?!
TAKE IT DOWN!
TAPLESON 8-11


WHERE DID YOU GET THAT PAINTING, DR. ARDIN?
I PAINTED IT MYSELF!
NO KIDDING!
I'VE BEEN TAKING A SUMMER PAINTING CLASS. IT'S REALLY BEEN A GREAT EXPERIENCE.
AS LONG AS YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BUY IT...
LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR ISSUES, OK?
8.12

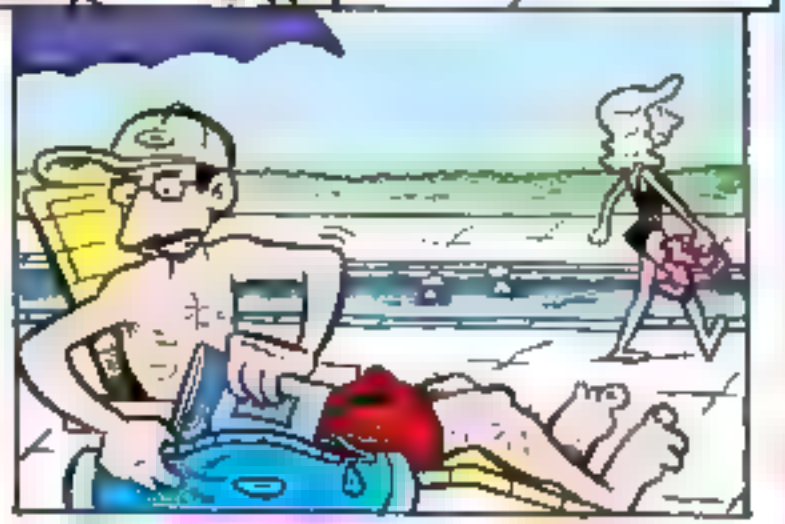

MY PAINTING CLASS ENDED TODAY, LEN.
OH YEAH? ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE?
I DON'T PLAN TO.
REALLY? I THOUGHT YOU WERE TOTALLY OBSESSED WITH IT!
WELL, I ENJOYED PAINTING, BUT I'VE REALIZED I'M NOT MUCH GOOD AT IT.
DECIDED YOU'RE NOT AN ARTIST AFTER ALL, HUH?
ACTUALLY, I JUST SIGNED UP FOR SCULPTURE!


WHY IS THE CAMP CHARGING US AN EXTRA $100 FOR ARTS AND CRAFTS?
IT'S FOR CERAMICS. THE KIDS PAINT PRECAST FIGURINES, AND THEY CAN BE PRICEY.
BILL
CAMP
STILL-- $100 ?!
YOUR DAUGHTER PROBABLY PAINTED ONE OF THE LARGER ONES.
?
CARLY


LEN, I'M GOING FOR A SWIM. I'D LIKE YOU TO SUPERVISE THE KIDS.


THEY DON'T NEED ME TO WATCH THEM, ABBY. THAT'S WHAT THE LIFEGUARDS ARE FOR!
I'D FEEL A LOT BETTER IF I KNEW YOU WERE KEEPING AN EYE ON THEM!

SO, WOULD YOU PROMISE ME YOU'LL STOP READING TILL I GET BACK?
:SIGH!: ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT!
8-15



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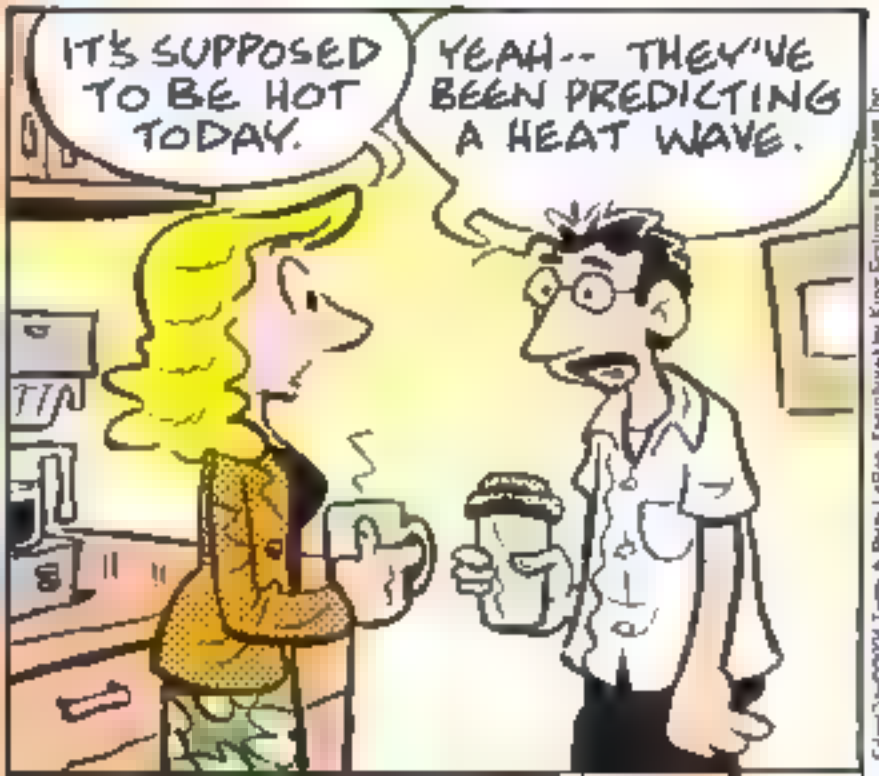

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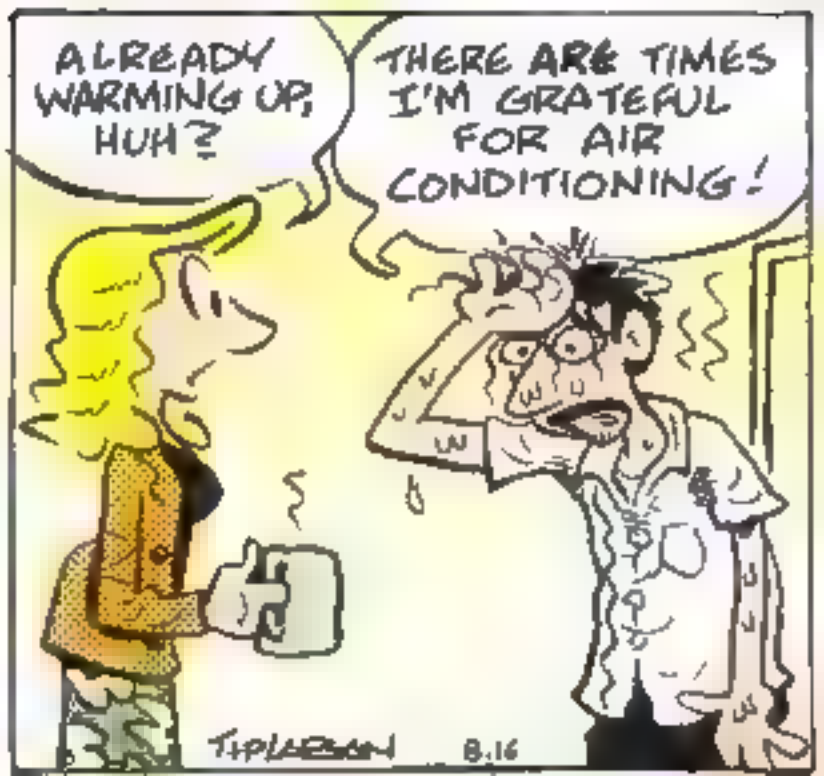
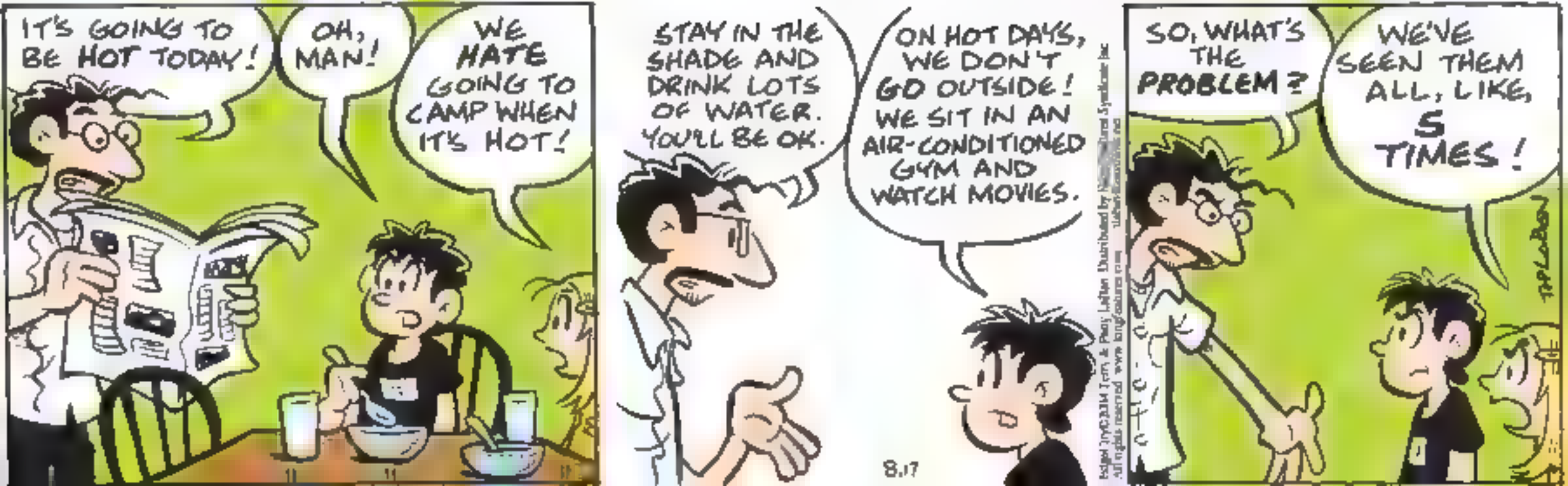
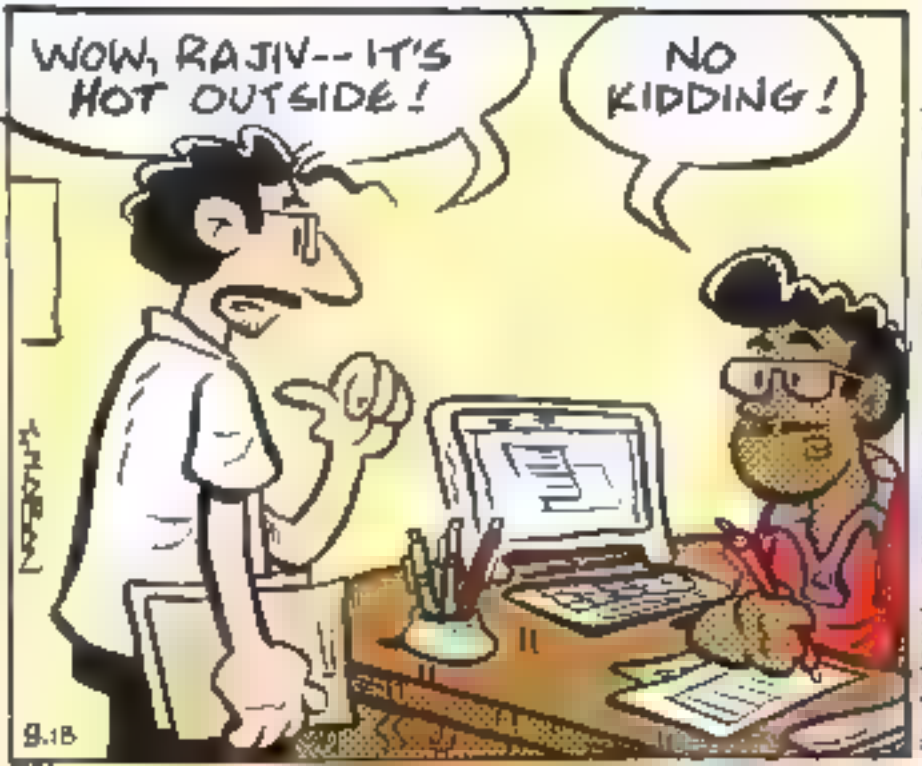



IT'S GOING TO BE HOT TODAY!
OH, MAN!
WE HATE GOING TO CAMP WHEN IT'S HOT!
STAY IN THE SHADE AND DRINK LOTS OF WATER. YOU'LL BE OK.
ON HOT DAYS, WE DON'T GO OUTSIDE! WE SIT IN AN AIR-CONDITIONED GYM AND WATCH MOVIES.
8.17
SO, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
WE'VE SEEN THEM ALL, LIKE, 5 TIMES!



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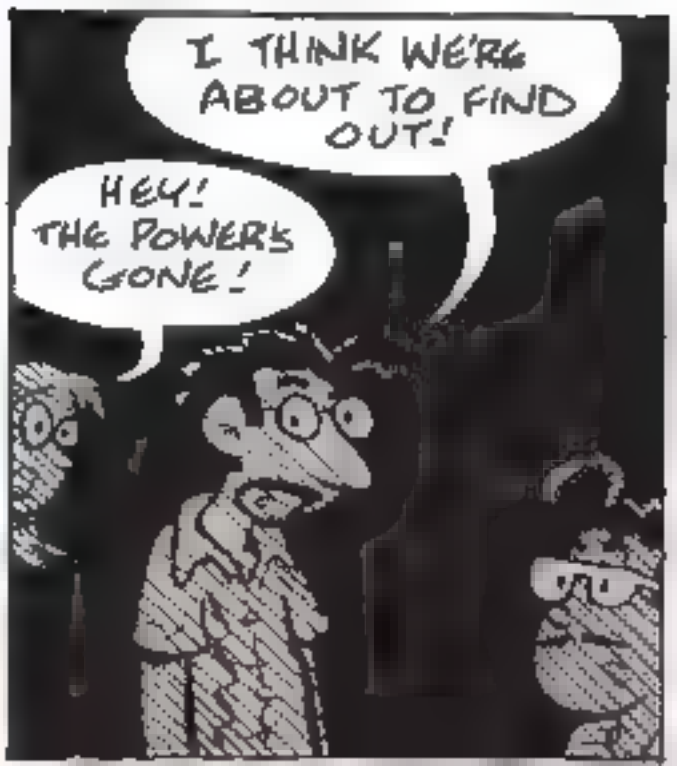
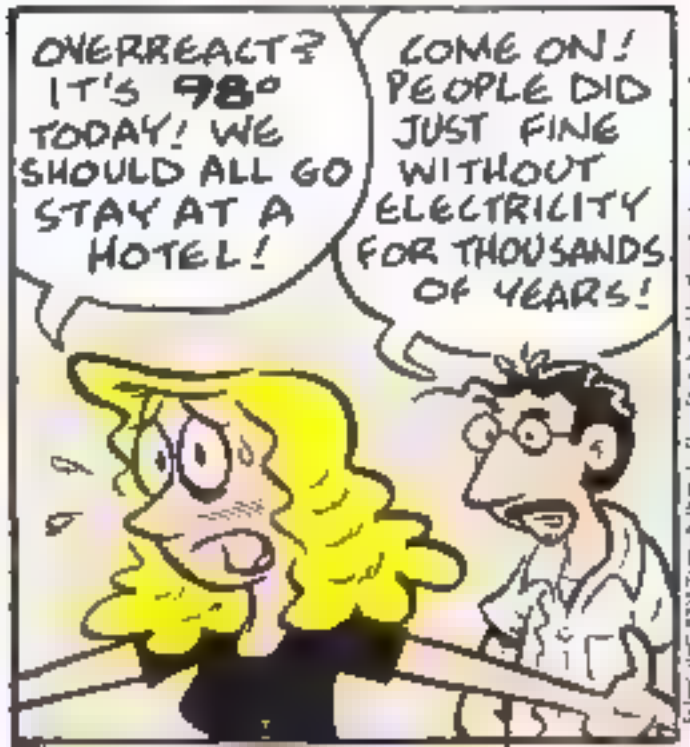
FOOMP!



ABBY, IT'S LEN! I'M HEADING HOME--WE LOST POWER AT WORK!
SO DID WE! IT MUST BE OUT ALL OVER THE AREA!
DO YOU THINK IT'S TERRORISM?
THEY HAVEN'T MENTIONED IT ON THE RADIO.
JUST GREEDY POWER COMPANIES, INCOMPETENT BUREAUCRATS, AND AN OVERLOADED POWER GRID!
THANK GOOD-NESS!
HONK! BEEP!



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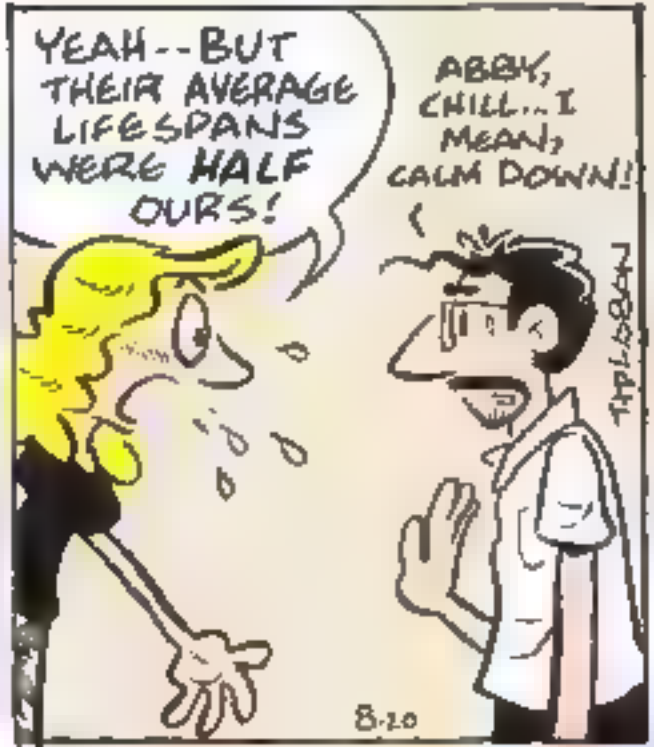
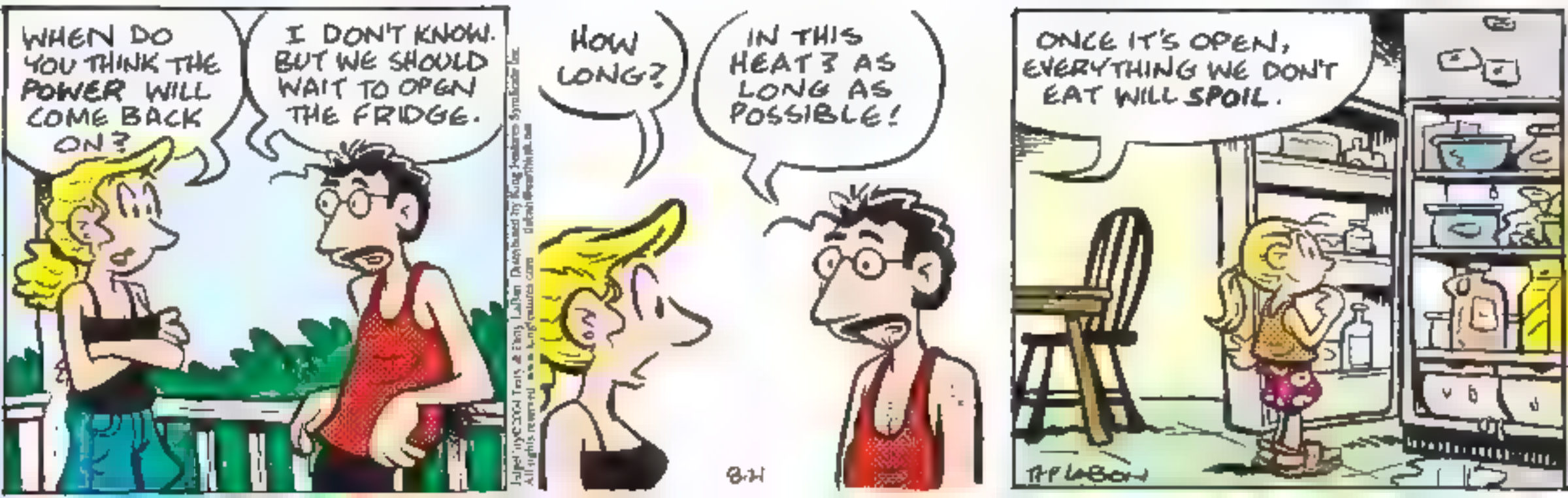
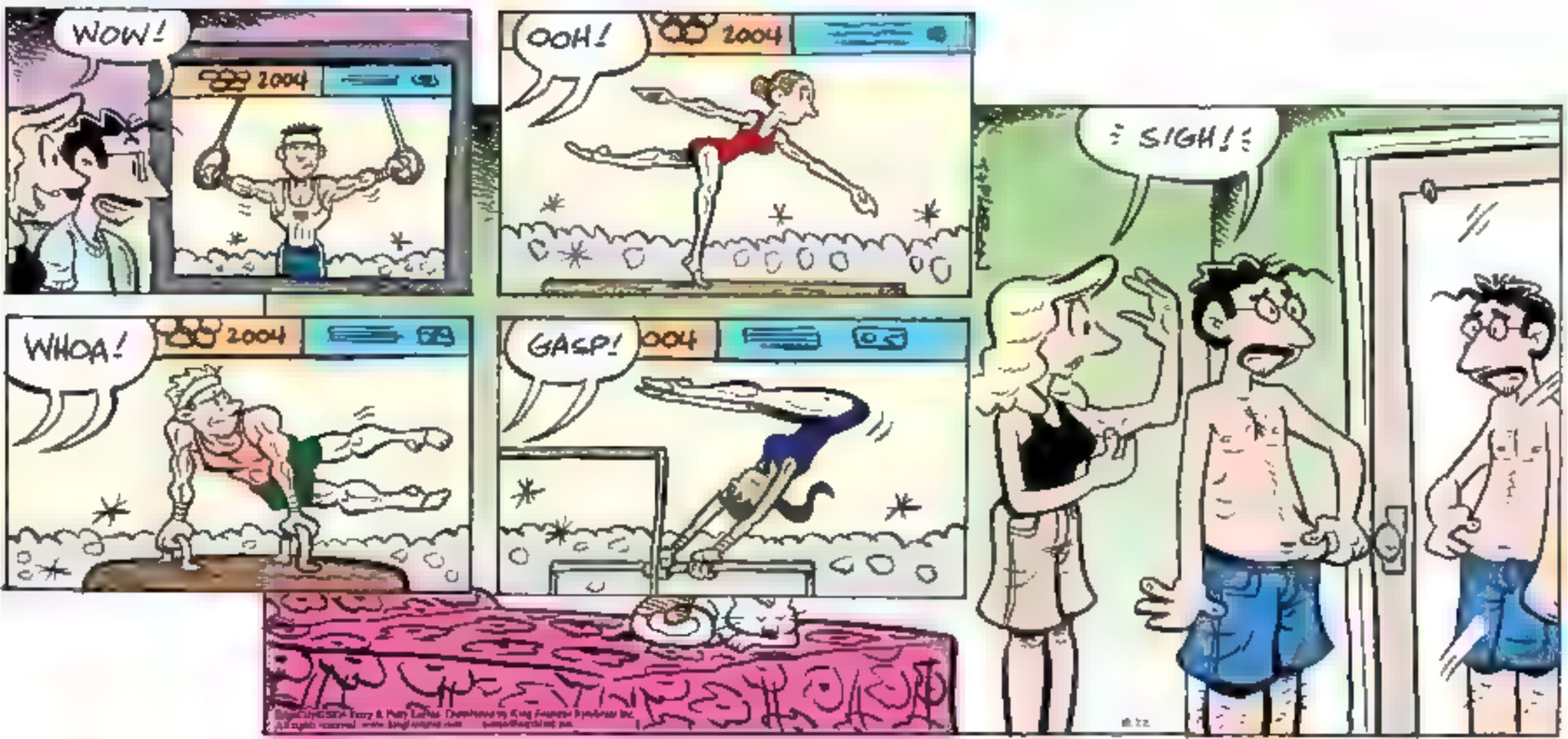
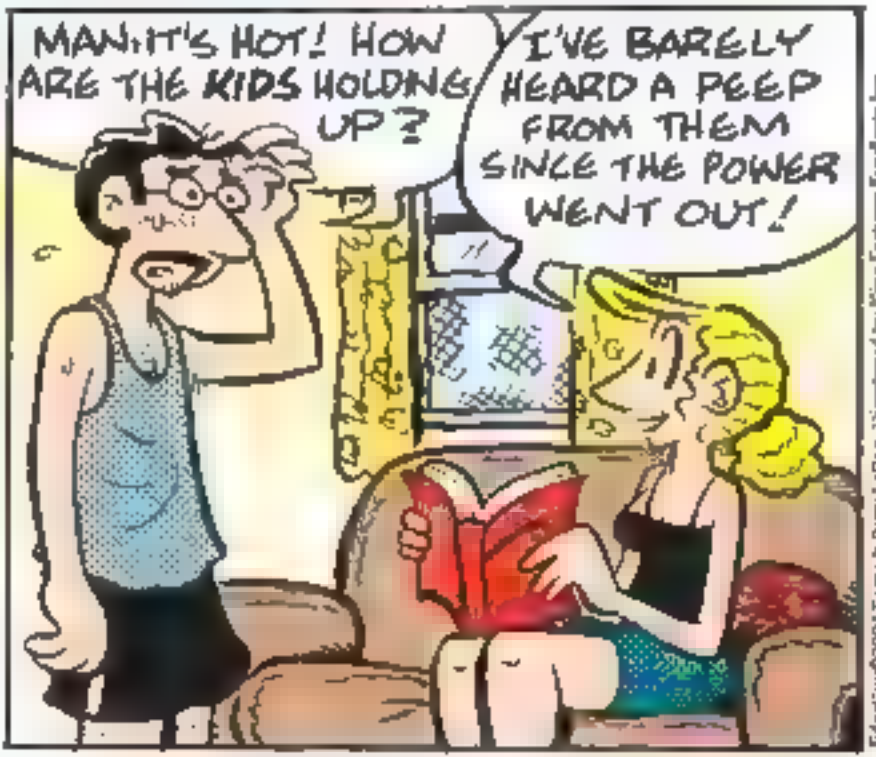
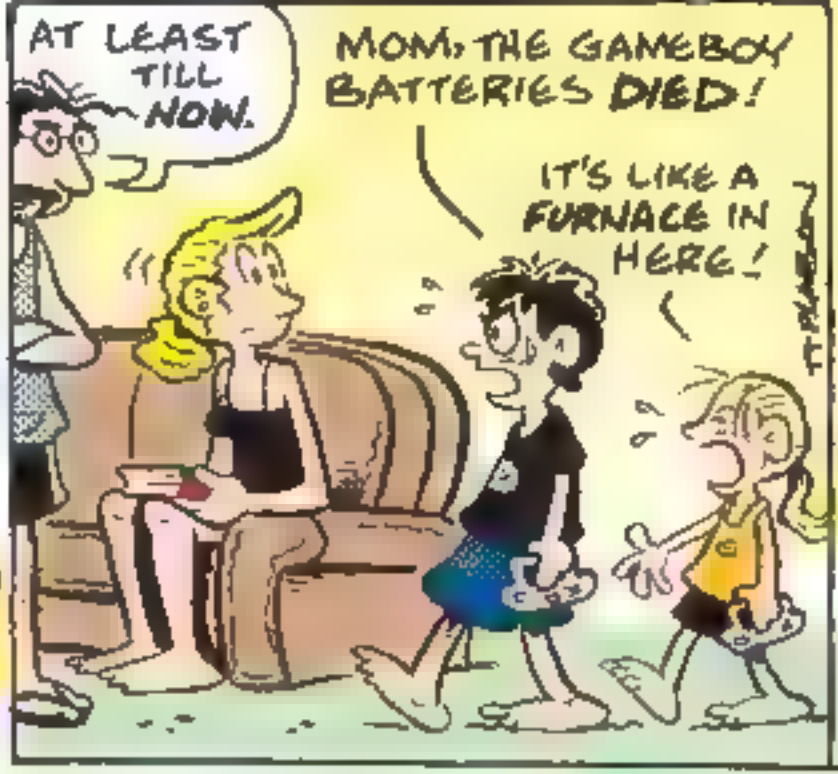


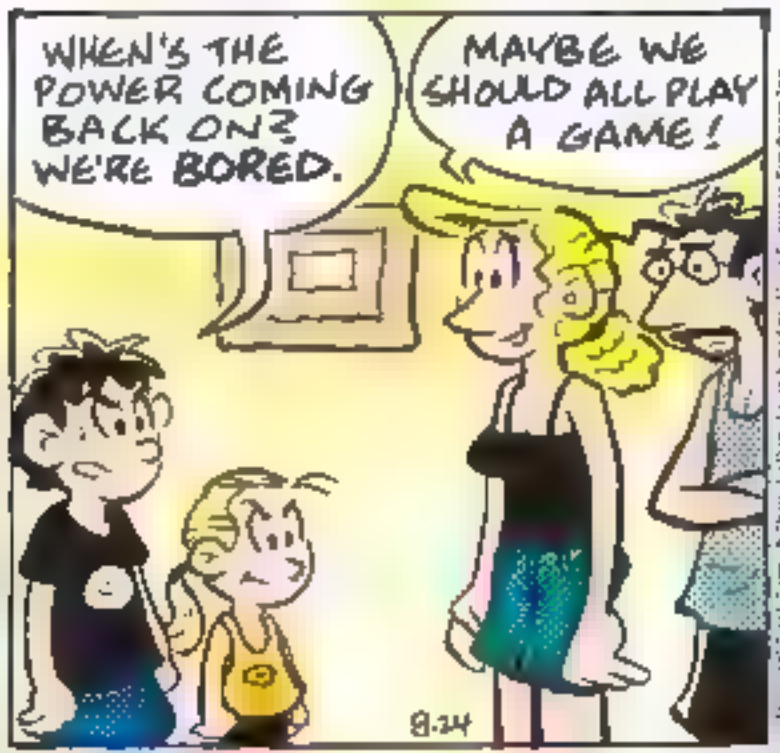

WHEN DO YOU THINK THE POWER WILL COME BACK ON?
I DON'T KNOW. BUT WE SHOULD WAIT TO OPEN THE FRIDGE.
HOW LONG?
IN THIS HEAT? AS LONG AS POSSIBLE!
ONCE IT'S OPEN, EVERYTHING WE DON'T EAT WILL SPOIL.
8-21


WOW!
2004
OOH!
2004
WHOA!
2004
GASP!
SIGH!

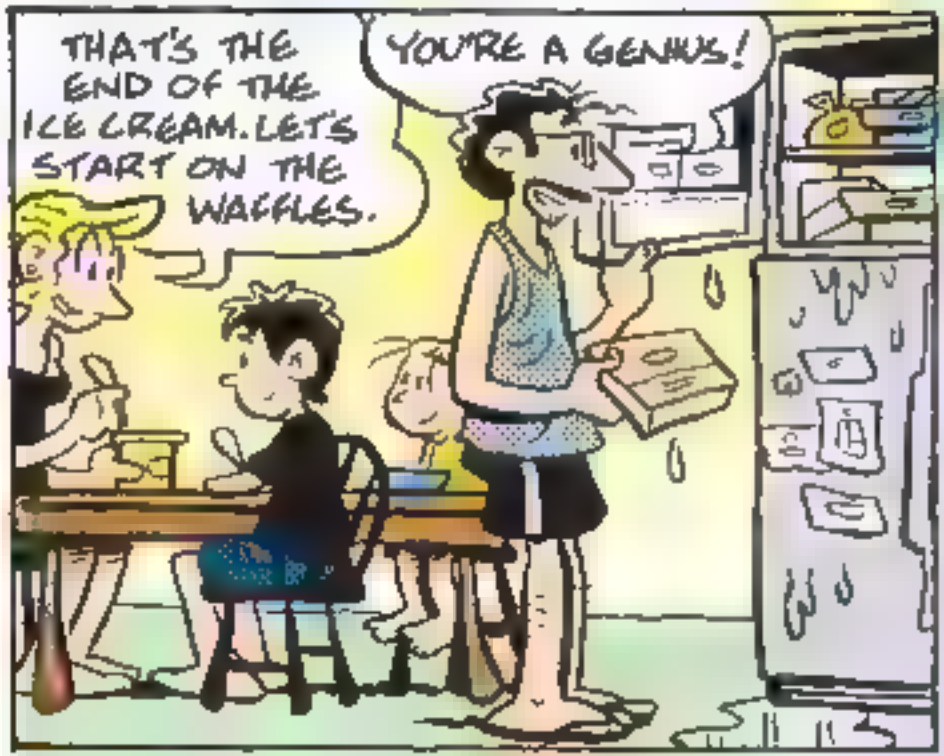

MAN, IT'S HOT! HOW ARE THE KIDS HOLDING UP?
I'VE BARELY HEARD A PEEP FROM THEM SINCE THE POWER WENT OUT!

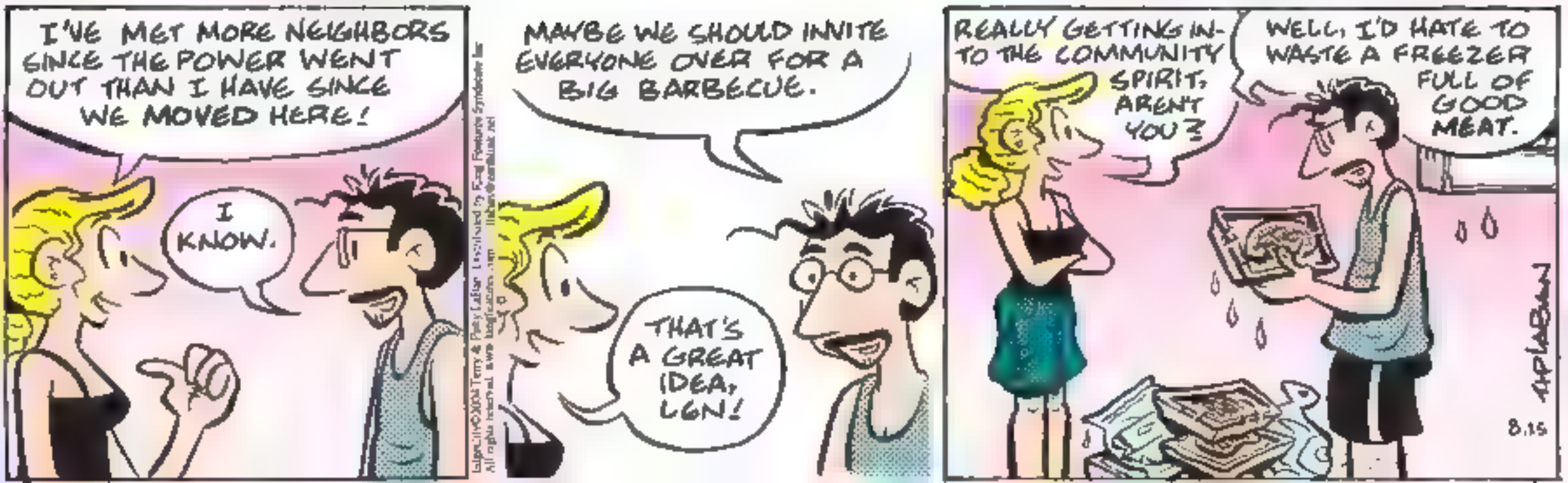
THEY'RE DEFINITELY HANDLING THIS A LOT BETTER THAN I EXPECTED.

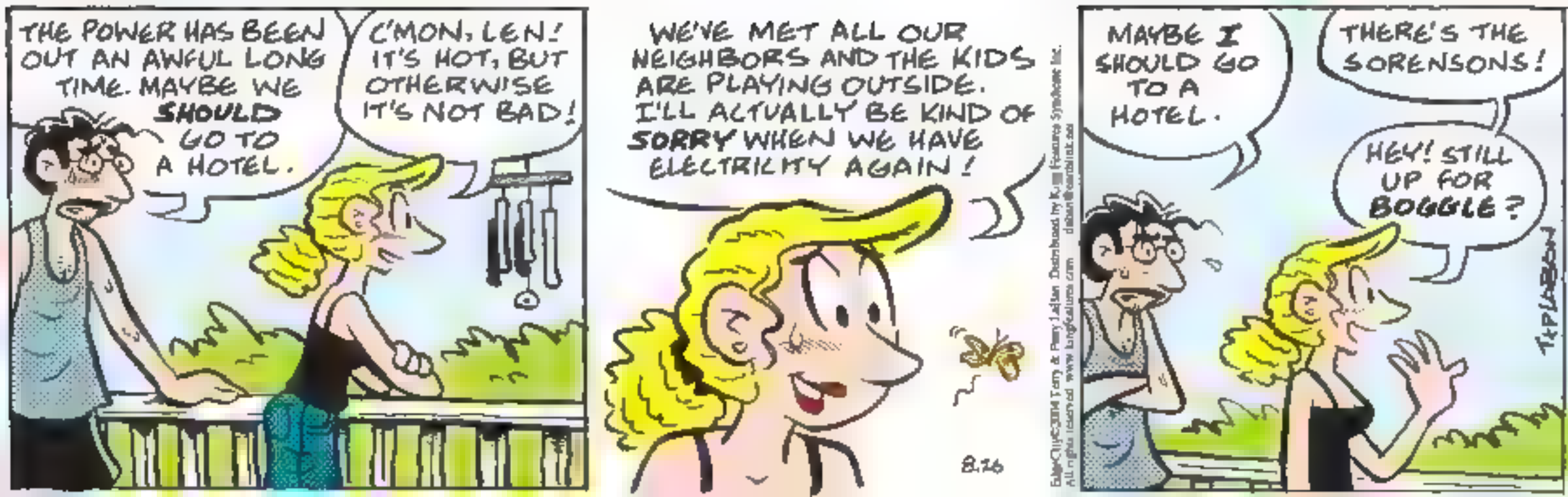

AT LEAST TILL NOW.
MOM, THE GAMEBOY BATTERIES DIED!
IT'S LIKE A FURNACE IN HERE!

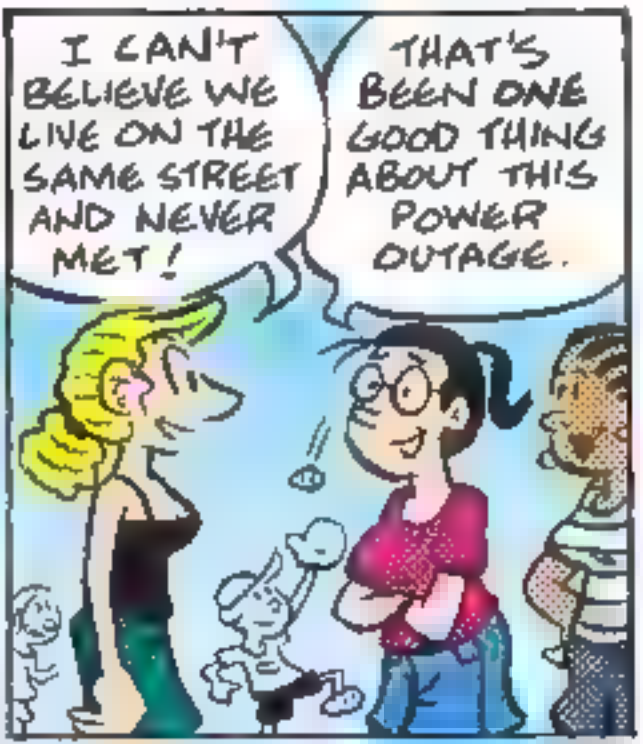

WHEN'S THE POWER COMING BACK ON? WE'RE BORED.
MAYBE WE SHOULD ALL PLAY A GAME!
8-24

IT'S TOO HOT!
WELL, THEN...LET'S FIND A PROJECT TO WORK ON AS A FAMILY.
WHAT KIND OF A PROJECT?
A+PLABAN


THAT'S THE END OF THE ICE CREAM. LET'S START ON THE WAFFLES.
YOU'RE A GENIUS!

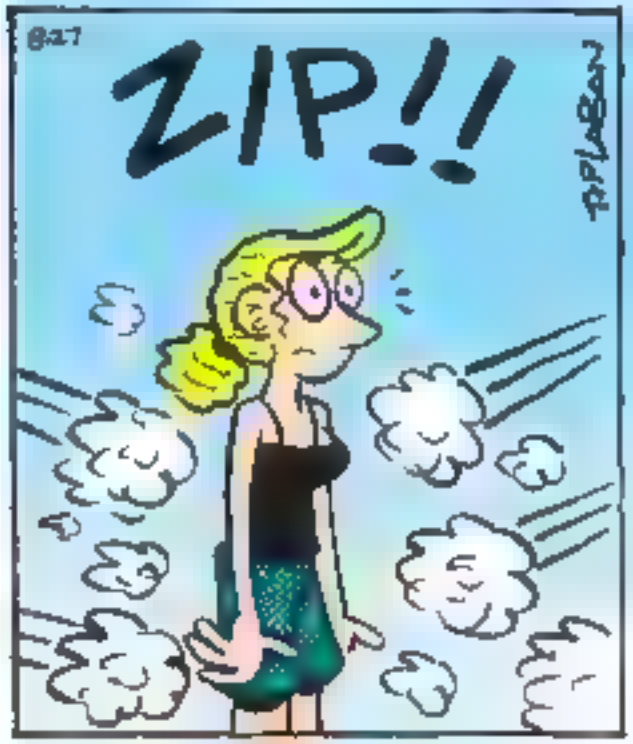

I'VE MET MORE NEIGHBORS SINCE THE POWER WENT OUT THAN I HAVE SINCE WE MOVED HERE!
I KNOW.
MAYBE WE SHOULD INVITE EVERYONE OVER FOR A BIG BARBECUE.
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA, LEN!
REALLY GETTING INTO THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT, AREN'T YOU?
WELL, I'D HATE TO WASTE A FREEZER FULL OF GOOD MEAT.
8.15

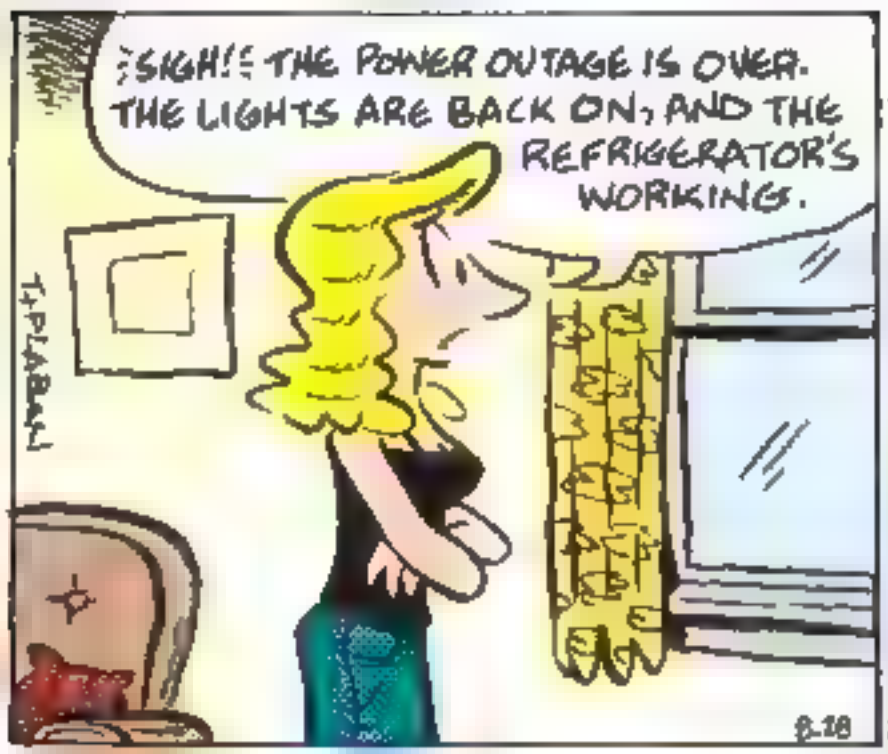

THE POWER HAS BEEN OUT AN AWFUL LONG TIME. MAYBE WE SHOULD GO TO A HOTEL.
C'MON, LEN! IT'S HOT, BUT OTHERWISE IT'S NOT BAD!
WE'VE MET ALL OUR NEIGHBORS AND THE KIDS ARE PLAYING OUTSIDE. I'LL ACTUALLY BE KIND OF SORRY WHEN WE HAVE ELECTRICITY AGAIN!
8.26
MAYBE I SHOULD GO TO A HOTEL.
THERE'S THE SORENSONS!
HEY! STILL UP FOR BOGGLE?
T&P LARSON


I CAN'T BELIEVE WE LIVE ON THE SAME STREET AND NEVER MET!
THAT'S BEEN ONE GOOD THING ABOUT THIS POWER OUTAGE.

I HOPE WE STILL GET TOGETHER WHEN WE HAVE ELEC-TRICITY AGAIN.
WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE THE EFFORT!

HEY! THE POWER'S BACK ON!


8-27
ZIP!!
TOPLABAN



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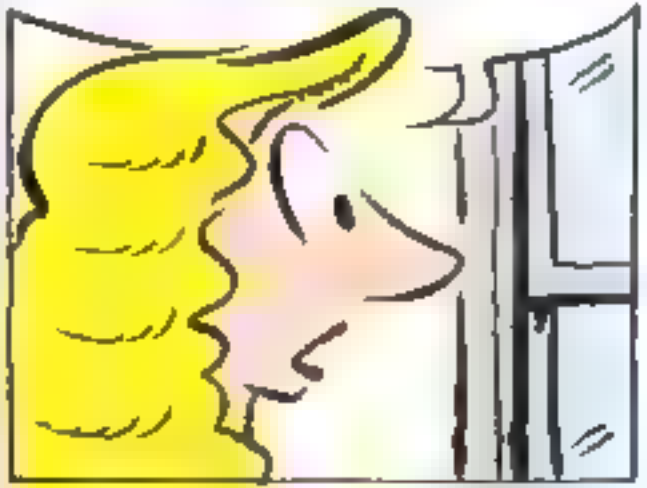
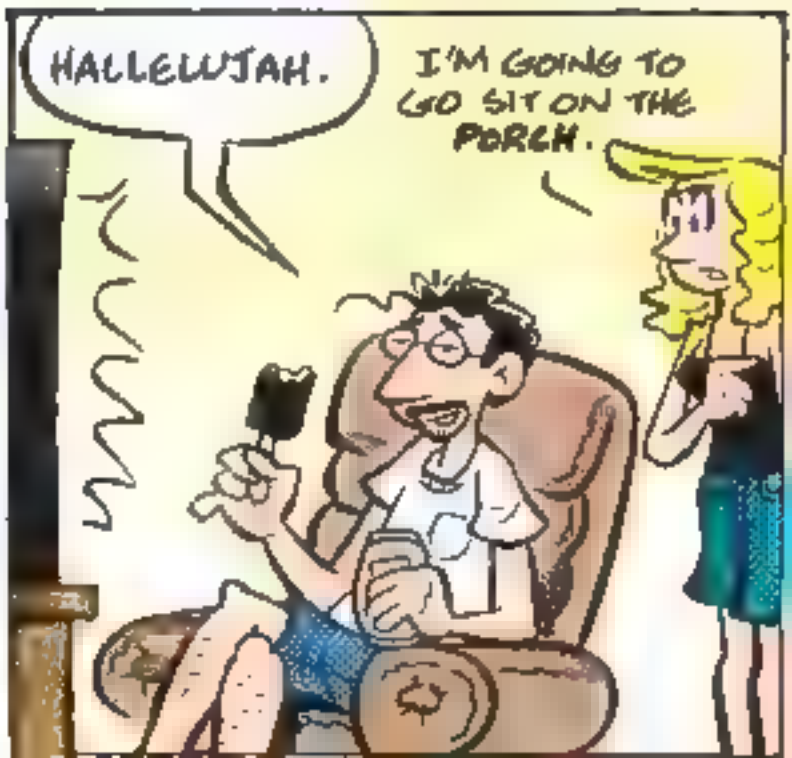
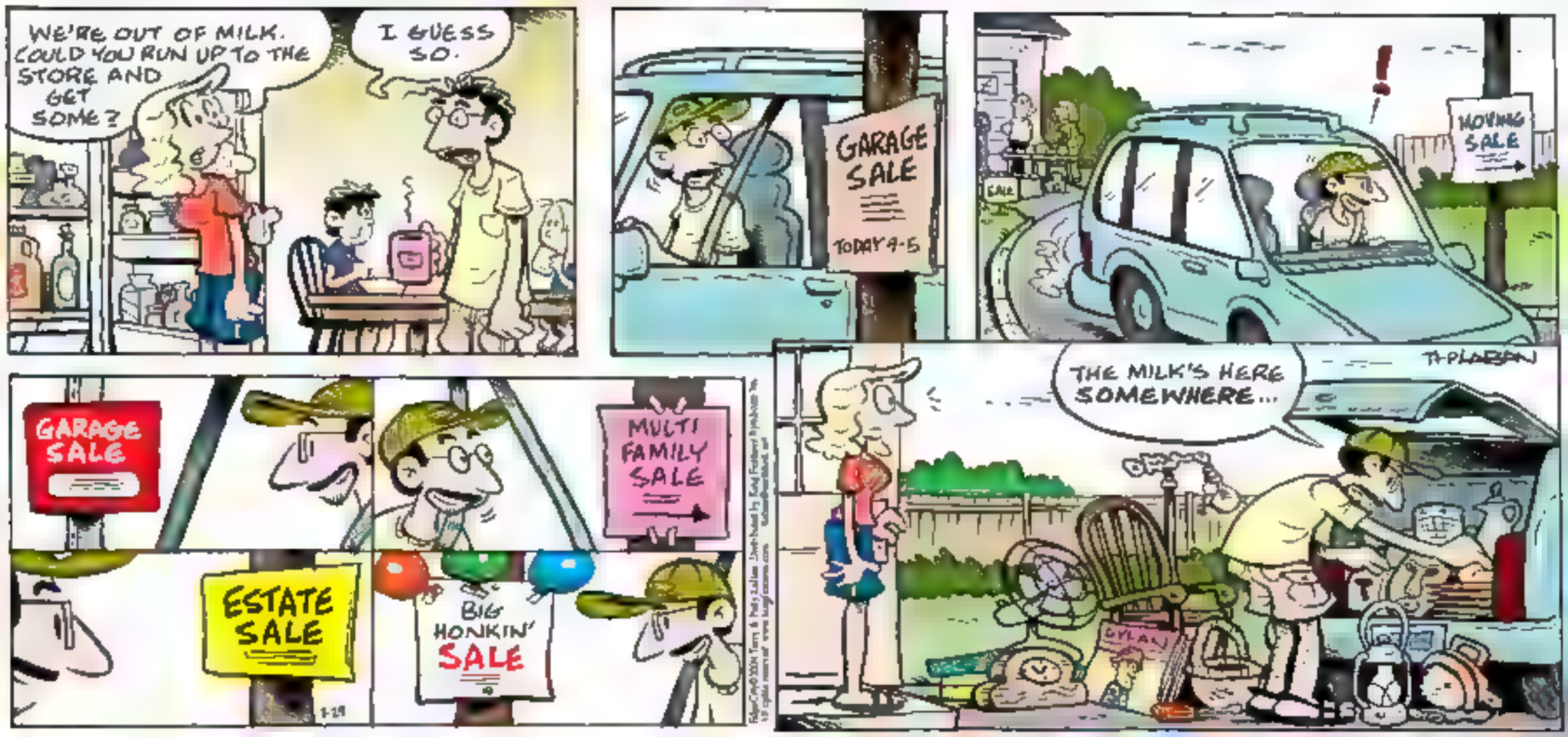
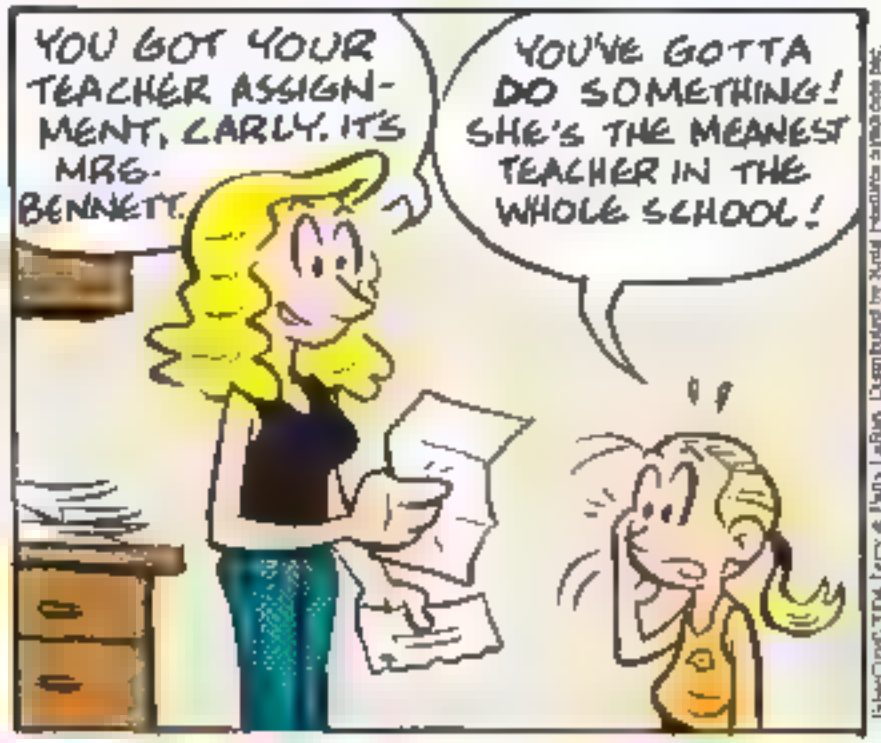
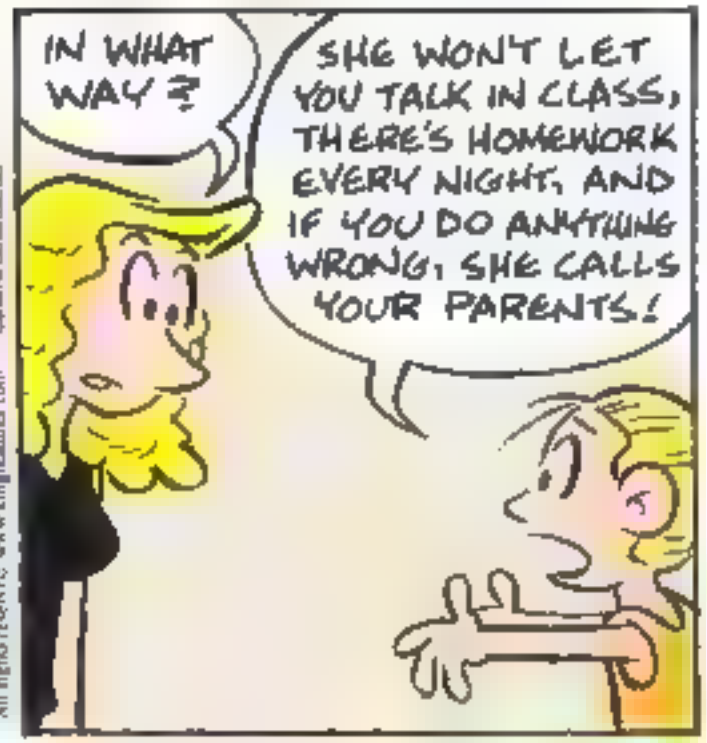
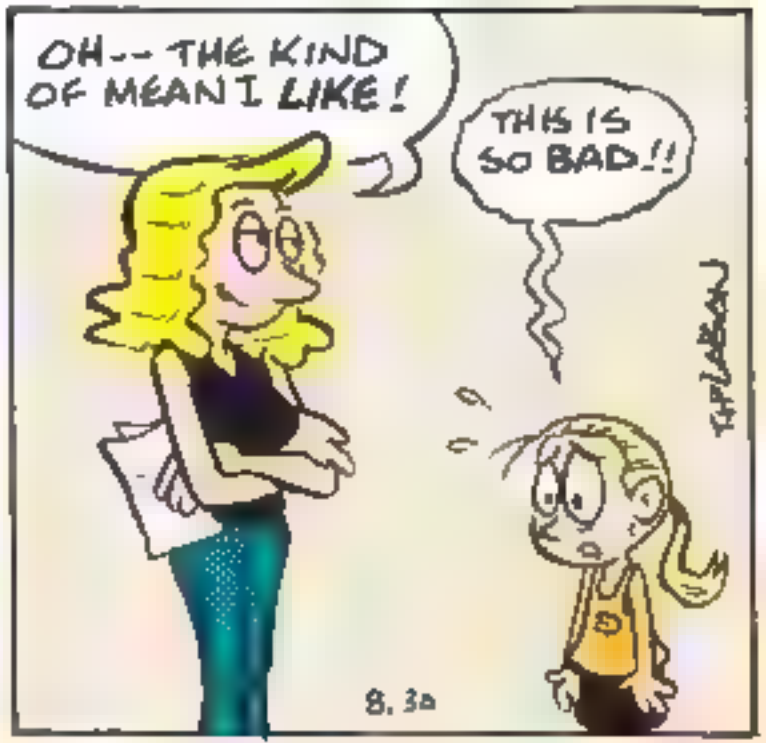





WE'RE OUT OF MILK. COULD YOU RUN UP TO THE STORE AND GET SOME?
I GUESS SO.
GARAGE SALE
TODAY 9-5
MOVING SALE
GARAGE SALE
MULTI FAMILY SALE
ESTATE SALE
BIG HONKIN' SALE
THE MILK'S HERE SOMEWHERE...


YOU GOT YOUR TEACHER ASSIGNMENT, CARLY. IT'S MRS. BENNETT.
YOU'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING! SHE'S THE MEANEST TEACHER IN THE WHOLE SCHOOL!


IN WHAT WAY?
SHE WON'T LET YOU TALK IN CLASS, THERE'S HOMEWORK EVERY NIGHT, AND IF YOU DO ANYTHING WRONG, SHE CALLS YOUR PARENTS!

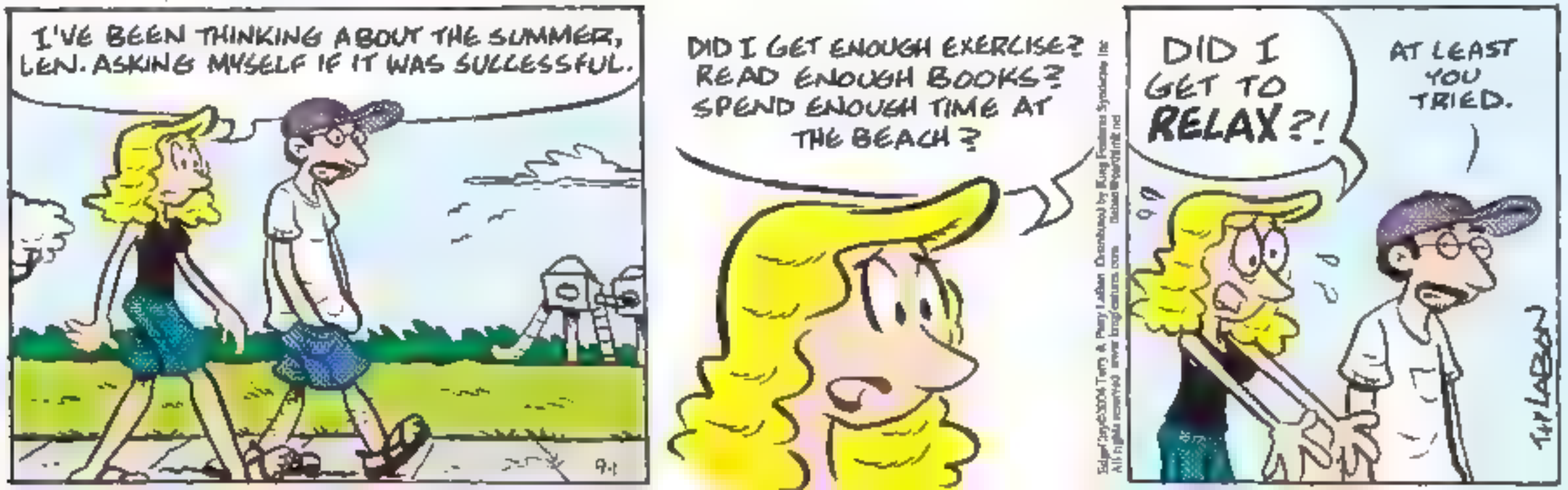

OH-- THE KIND OF MEAN I LIKE!
THIS IS SO BAD!!
8. 30

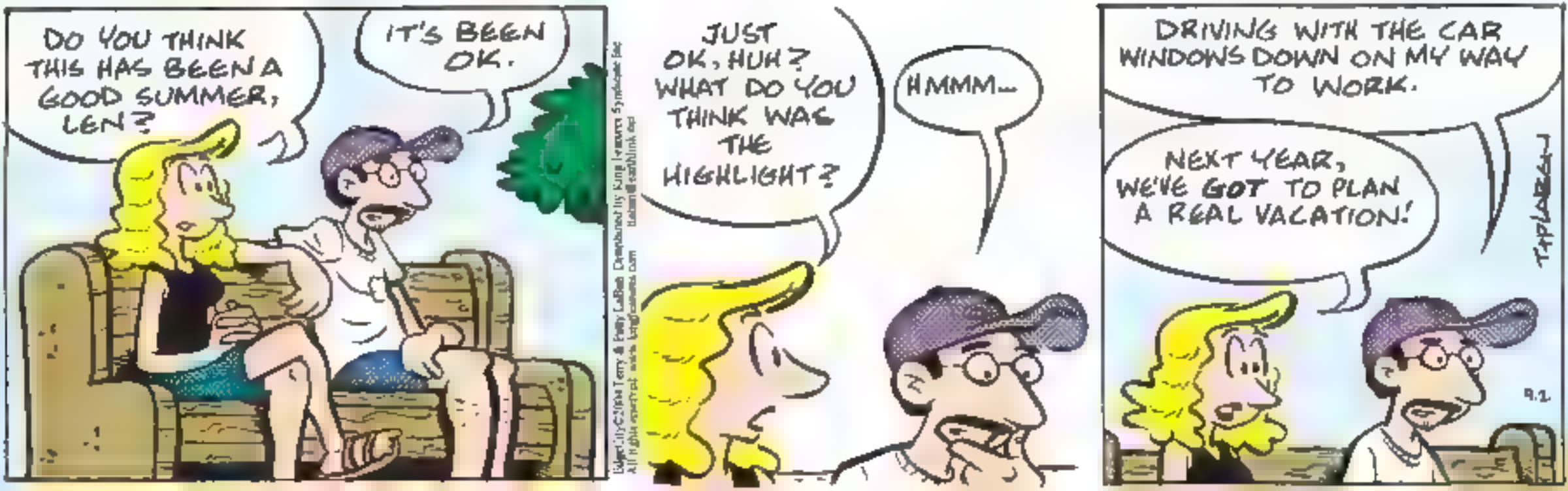
I FINALLY GOT ALL YOUR SCHOOL SUPPLIES, COLIN.

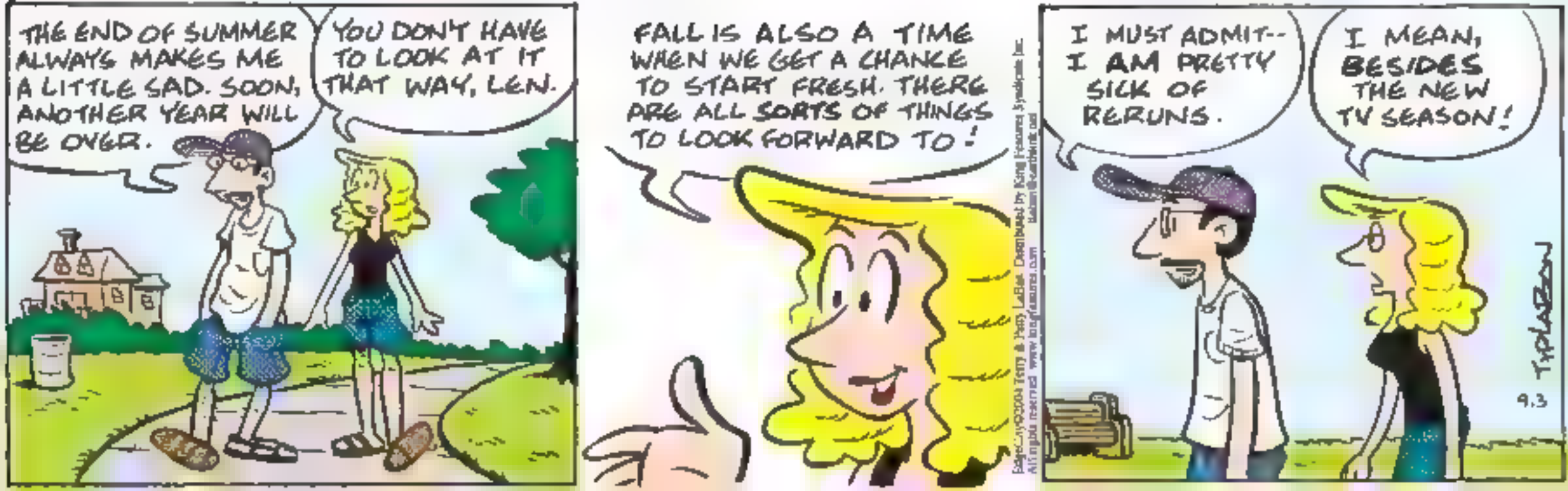
I HAD A TERRIBLE TIME FINDING THE RIGHT NOTEBOOK. I WENT TO 6 STORES, AND THEY WERE ALL SOLD OUT!

BUT MOM -- THIS NOTEBOOK ISN'T RIGHT!
WHAT?!

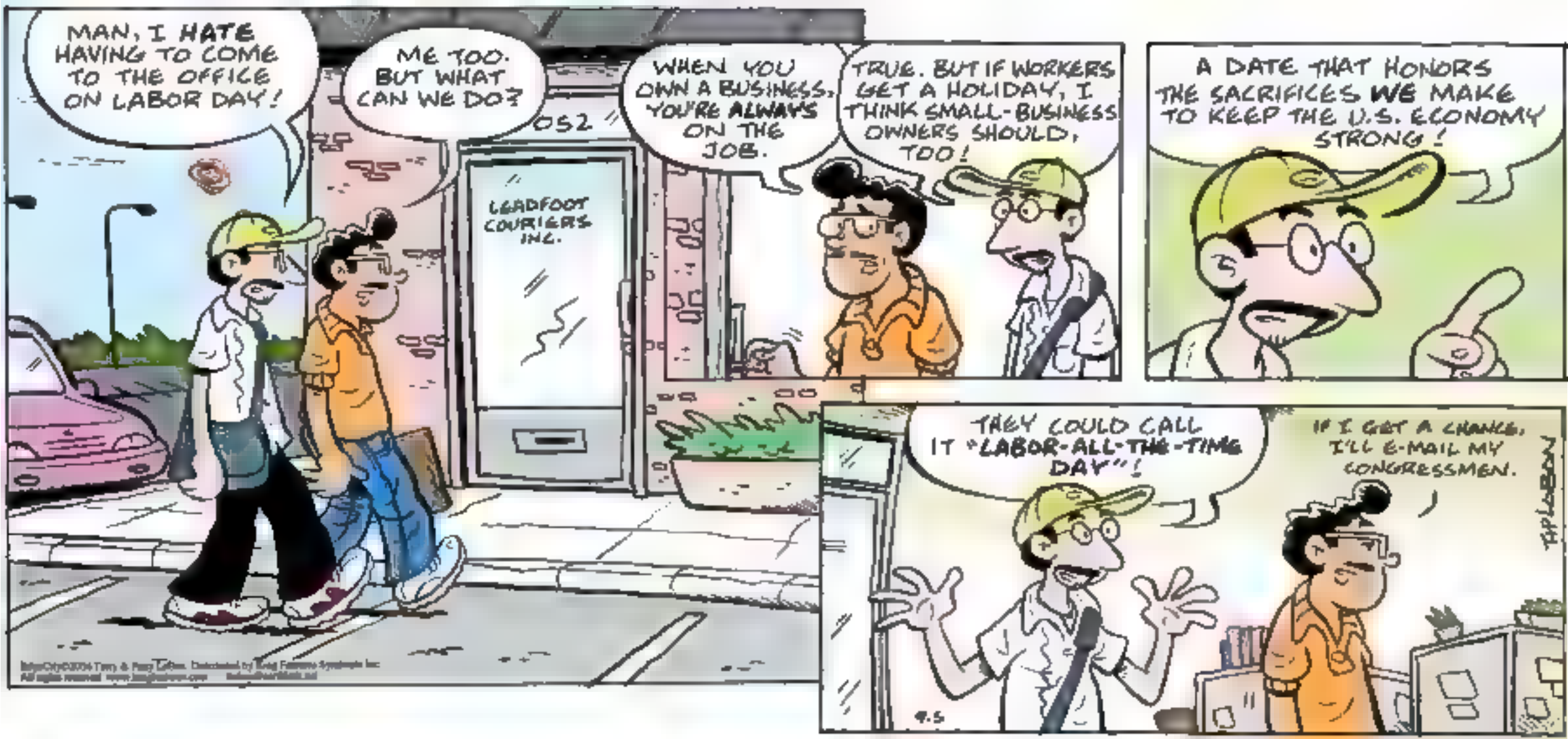
IT HAS 3 PUNCH HOLES AND 4 DIVIDERS, JUST LIKE THE LIST SAYS!
YEAH! BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE ON IT!
8-31

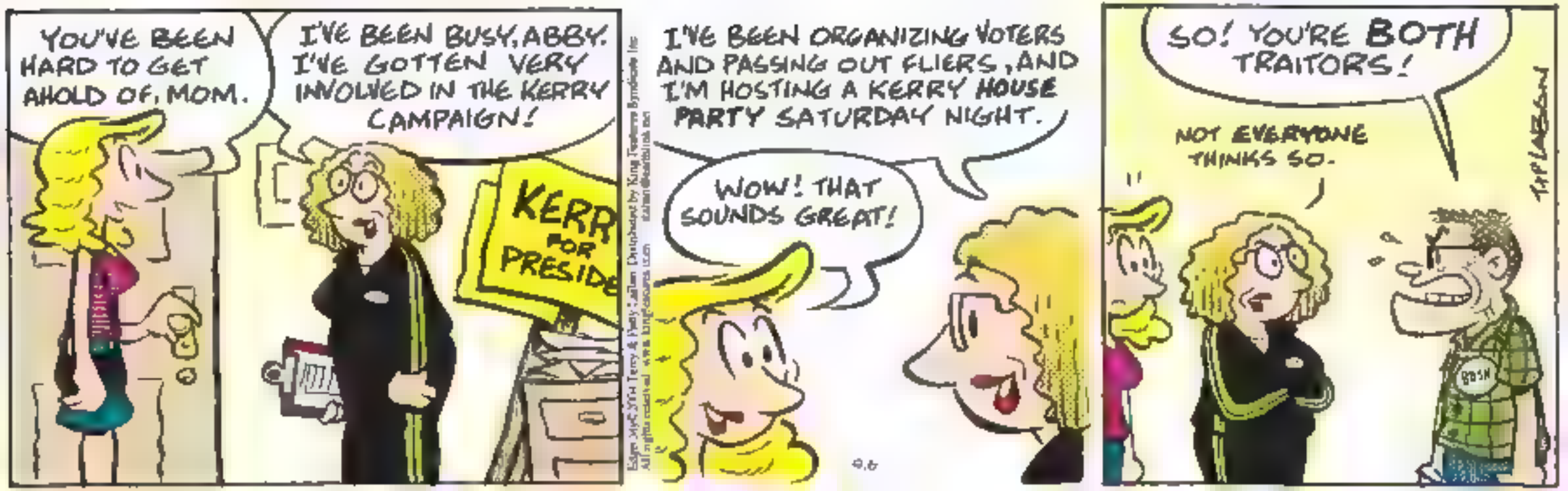

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE SUMMER, LEN. ASKING MYSELF IF IT WAS SUCCESSFUL.
DID I GET ENOUGH EXERCISE? READ ENOUGH BOOKS? SPEND ENOUGH TIME AT THE BEACH?
DID I GET TO RELAX?!
AT LEAST YOU TRIED.
TERRY LABAN

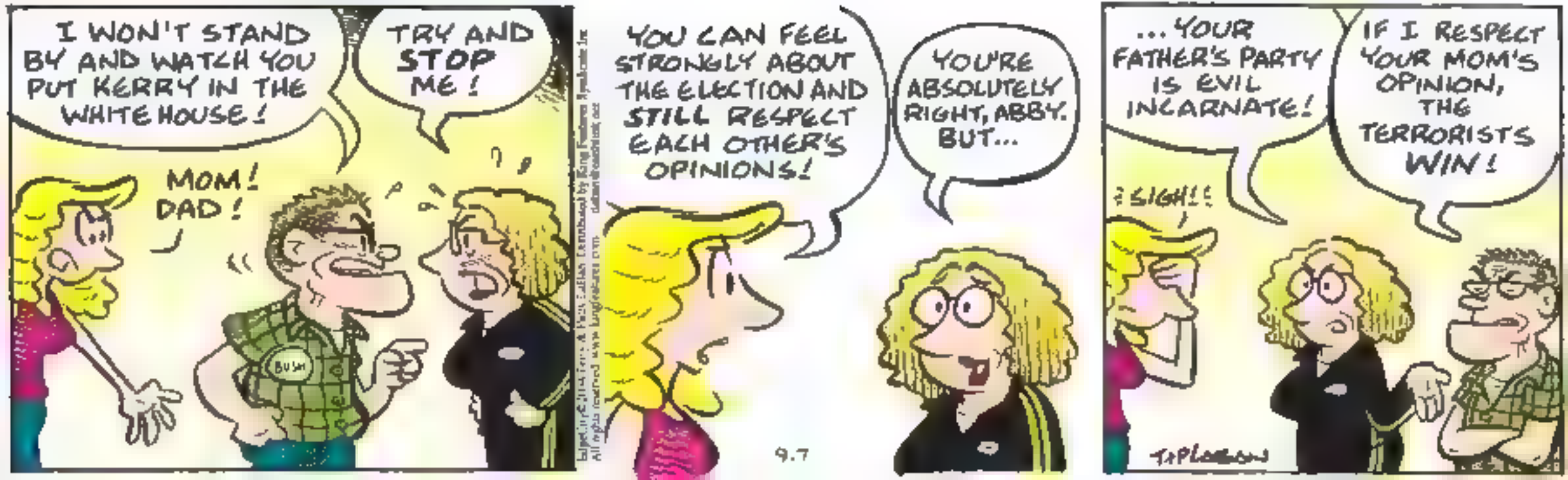

DO YOU THINK THIS HAS BEEN A GOOD SUMMER, LEN?
IT'S BEEN OK.
JUST OK, HUH? WHAT DO YOU THINK WAS THE HIGHLIGHT?
HMMM...
DRIVING WITH THE CAR WINDOWS DOWN ON MY WAY TO WORK.
NEXT YEAR, WE'VE GOT TO PLAN A REAL VACATION!
TAPLAREN
9.1

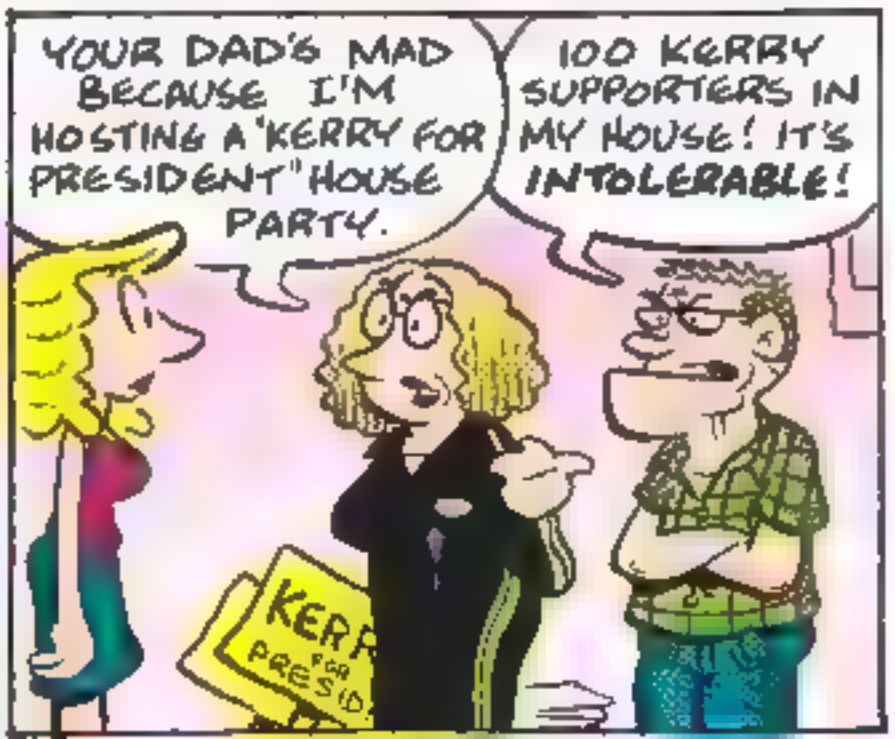

THE END OF SUMMER ALWAYS MAKES ME A LITTLE SAD. SOON, ANOTHER YEAR WILL BE OVER.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK AT IT THAT WAY, LEN.
FALL IS ALSO A TIME WHEN WE GET A CHANCE TO START FRESH. THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO!
I MUST ADMIT-- I AM PRETTY SICK OF RERUNS.
I MEAN, BESIDES THE NEW TV SEASON!
TOPLAZZO
9.3

FALL'S ALMOST HERE. THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I NEED TO DO!
CLEAN THE GUTTERS...SERVICE THE FURNACE...SWEEP THE CHIMNEY...AND THEN THERE'S ALL THE STUFF AT THE OFFICE!
DON'T FORGET TO TAKE SOME TIME TO ENJOY THE SEASON.
OH, RIGHT... THAT TOO!
9-4

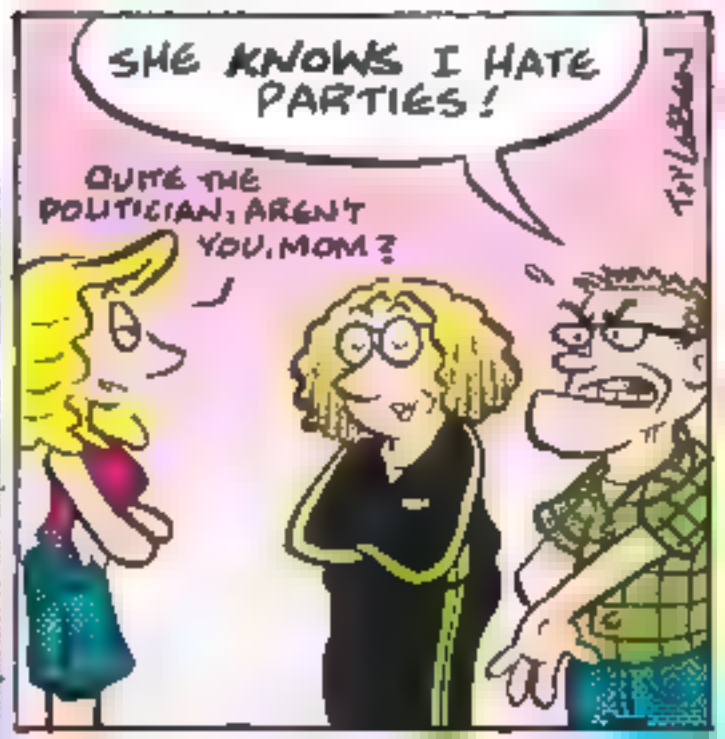

MAN, I HATE HAVING TO COME TO THE OFFICE ON LABOR DAY!
ME TOO. BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?
052
LEADFOOT COURIERS INC.
WHEN YOU OWN A BUSINESS, YOU'RE ALWAYS ON THE JOB.
TRUE. BUT IF WORKERS GET A HOLIDAY, I THINK SMALL-BUSINESS OWNERS SHOULD, TOO!
A DATE THAT HONORS THE SACRIFICES WE MAKE TO KEEP THE U.S. ECONOMY STRONG!
THEY COULD CALL IT "LABOR-ALL-THE-TIME DAY"!
IF I GET A CHANCE, I'LL E-MAIL MY CONGRESSMEN.
TAP LABOR

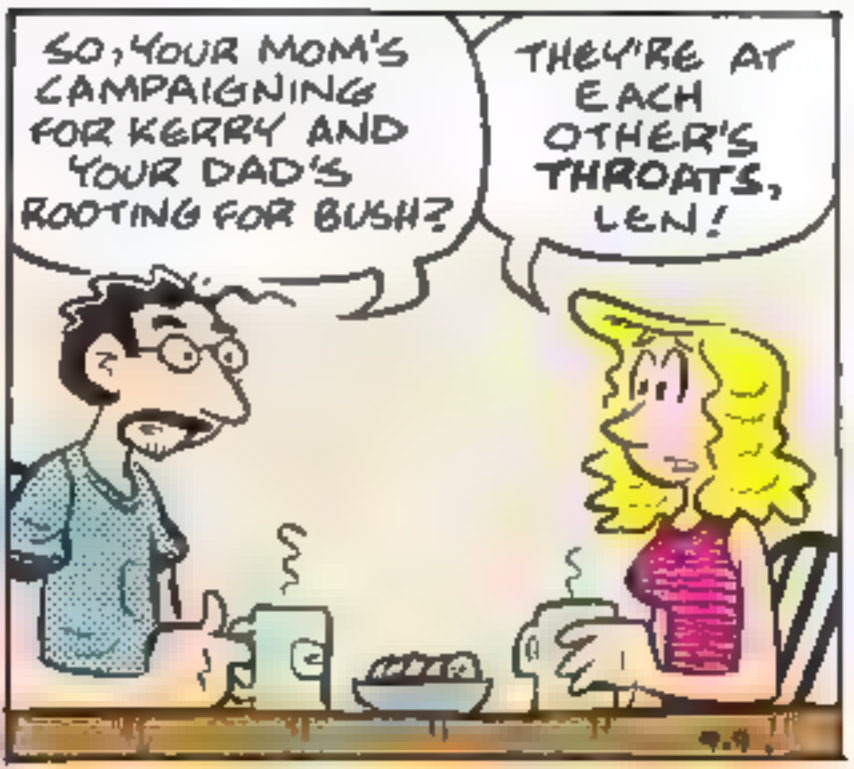

YOU'VE BEEN HARD TO GET AHOLD OF, MOM.
I'VE BEEN BUSY, ABBY. I'VE GOTTEN VERY INVOLVED IN THE KERRY CAMPAIGN!
KERRY FOR PRESIDE
I'VE BEEN ORGANIZING VOTERS AND PASSING OUT FLIERS, AND I'M HOSTING A KERRY HOUSE PARTY SATURDAY NIGHT.
WOW! THAT SOUNDS GREAT!
SO! YOU'RE BOTH TRAITORS!
NOT EVERYONE THINKS SO.


I WON'T STAND BY AND WATCH YOU PUT KERRY IN THE WHITE HOUSE!
TRY AND STOP ME!
MOM! DAD!
BUSH
YOU CAN FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT THE ELECTION AND STILL RESPECT EACH OTHER'S OPINIONS!
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, ABBY. BUT...
...YOUR FATHER'S PARTY IS EVIL INCARNATE!
IF I RESPECT YOUR MOM'S OPINION, THE TERRORISTS WIN!
SIGH!!
9.7

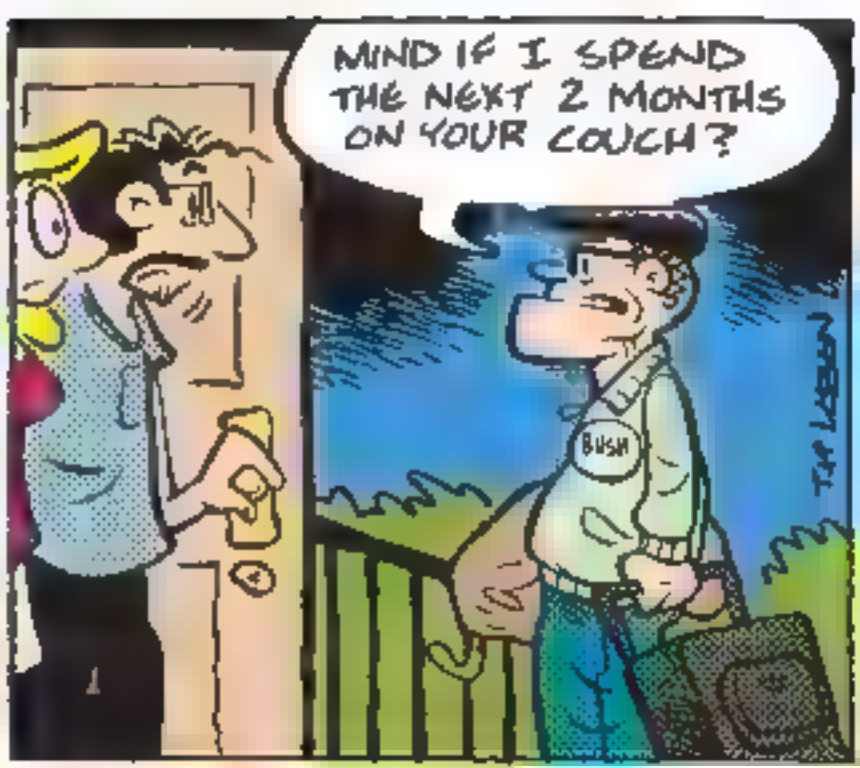

YOUR DAD'S MAD BECAUSE I'M HOSTING A "KERRY FOR PRESIDENT" HOUSE PARTY.
100 KERRY SUPPORTERS IN MY HOUSE! IT'S INTOLERABLE!

SO, COMPROMISE! IF YOU'RE HOSTING A PARTY FOR KERRY, WHY CAN'T DAD HOST ONE FOR BUSH?
I ASKED HIM, ABBY! HE WOULDN'T HEAR OF IT!
9.8

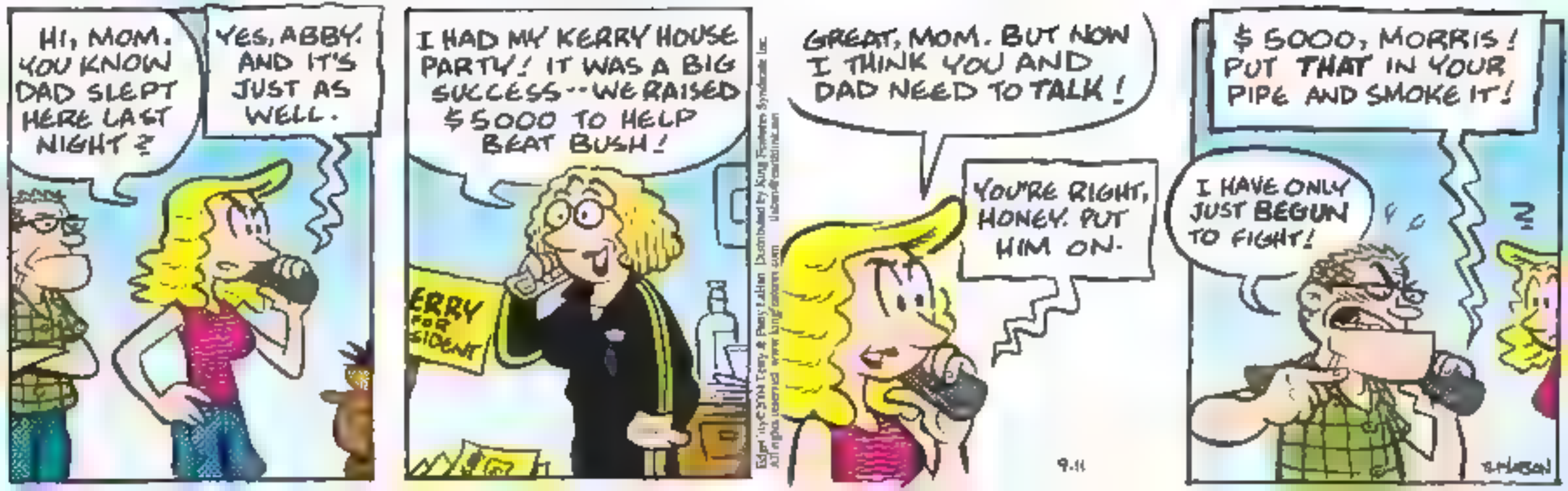

SHE KNOWS I HATE PARTIES!
QUITE THE POLITICIAN, AREN'T YOU, MOM?

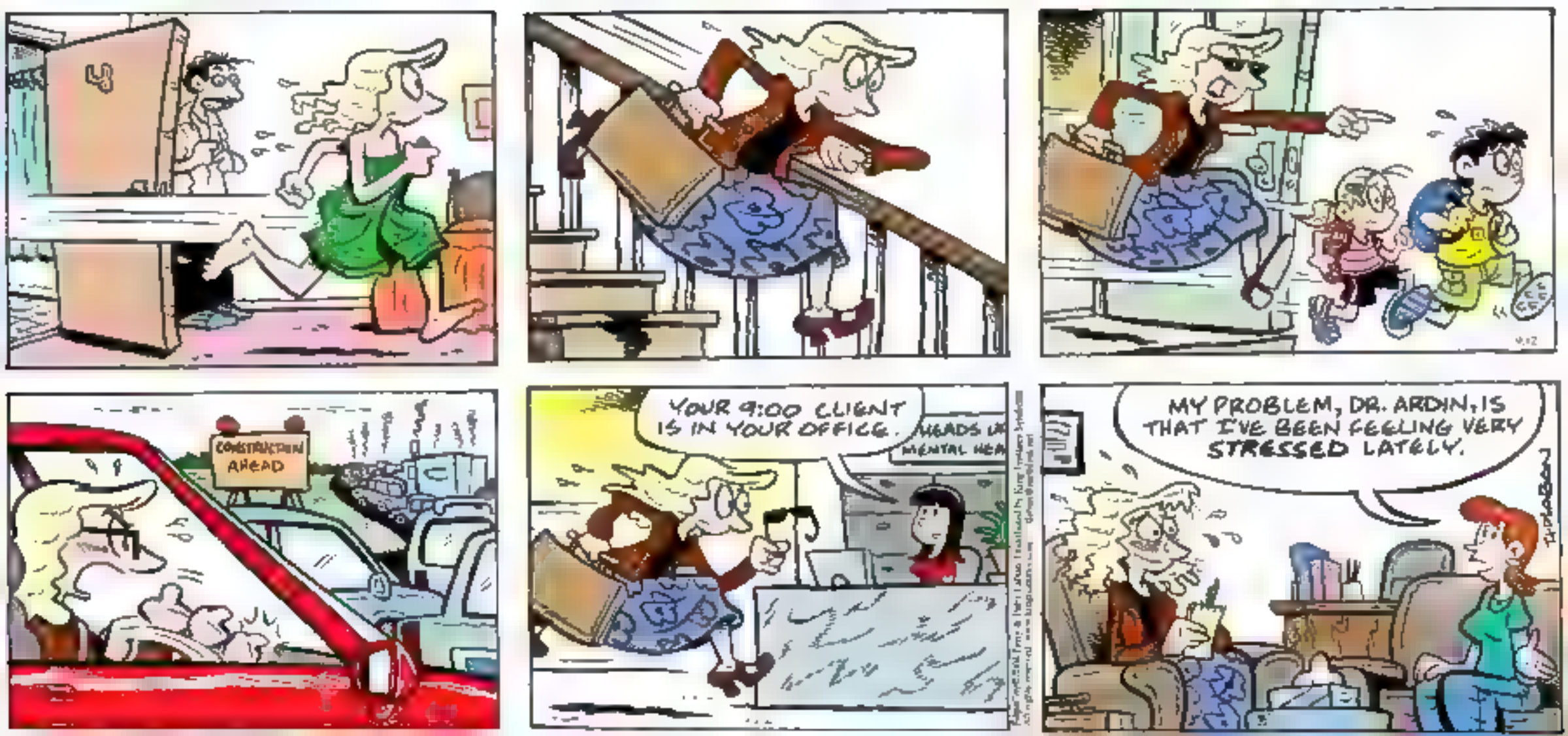

SO, YOUR MOM'S CAMPAIGNING FOR KERRY AND YOUR DAD'S ROOTING FOR BUSH?
THEY'RE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS, LEN!

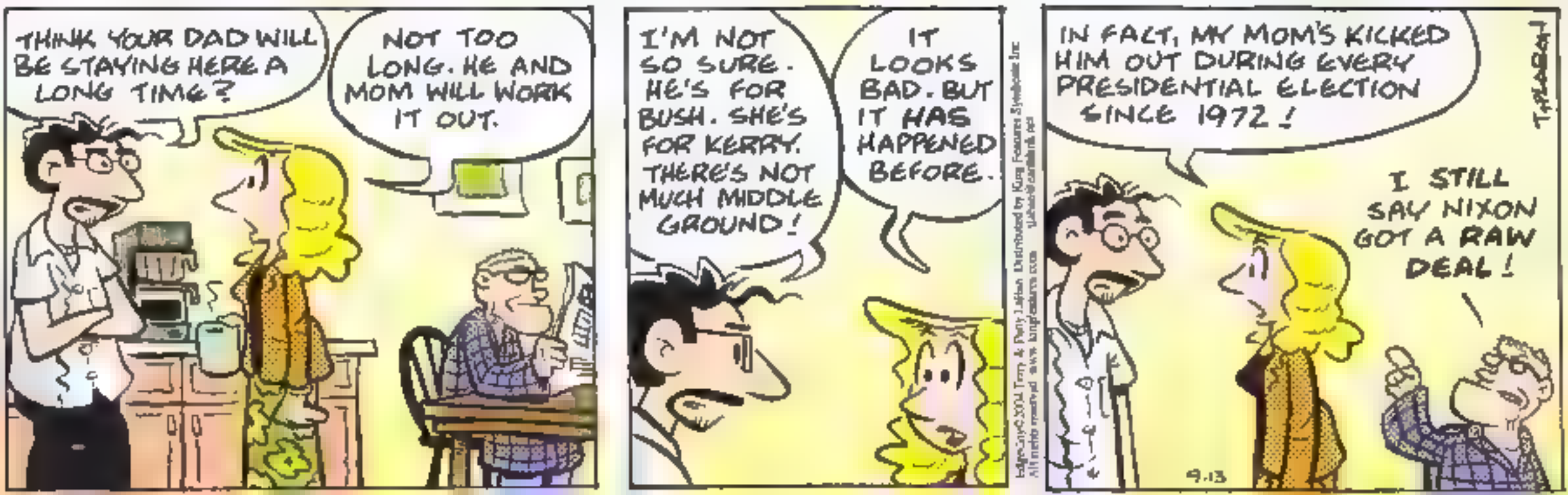
I'M GETTING A LITTLE CONCERNED!
THEY'VE BEEN MARRIED A LONG TIME, ABBY. THEY'LL WORK SOMETHING OUT!
DING DONG!

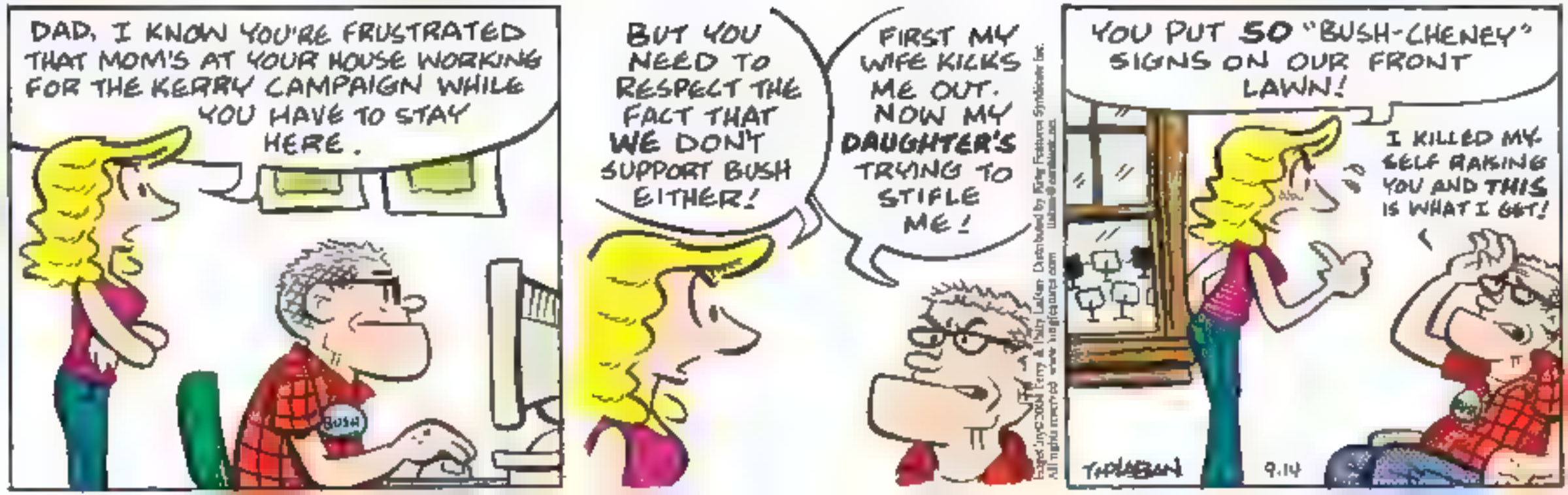

MIND IF I SPEND THE NEXT 2 MONTHS ON YOUR COUCH?
BUSH
TAP LABAN

IS MY DAD OK ON THE SOFA BED?
I THINK SO, MAN-- I CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR MOM KICKED HIM OUT FOR SUPPORTING BUSH!
THEY SAY THIS ELECTION HAS PEOPLE VERY POLARIZED.
WELL, PERSONALLY, I CAN'T IMAGINE GETTING SO WORKED UP OVER POLITICS!
9.10
I MEAN, I LIKE KERRY. BUT I DON'T THINK BUSH HAS BEEN THAT BAD.
WHAT?!
MOVE OVER.

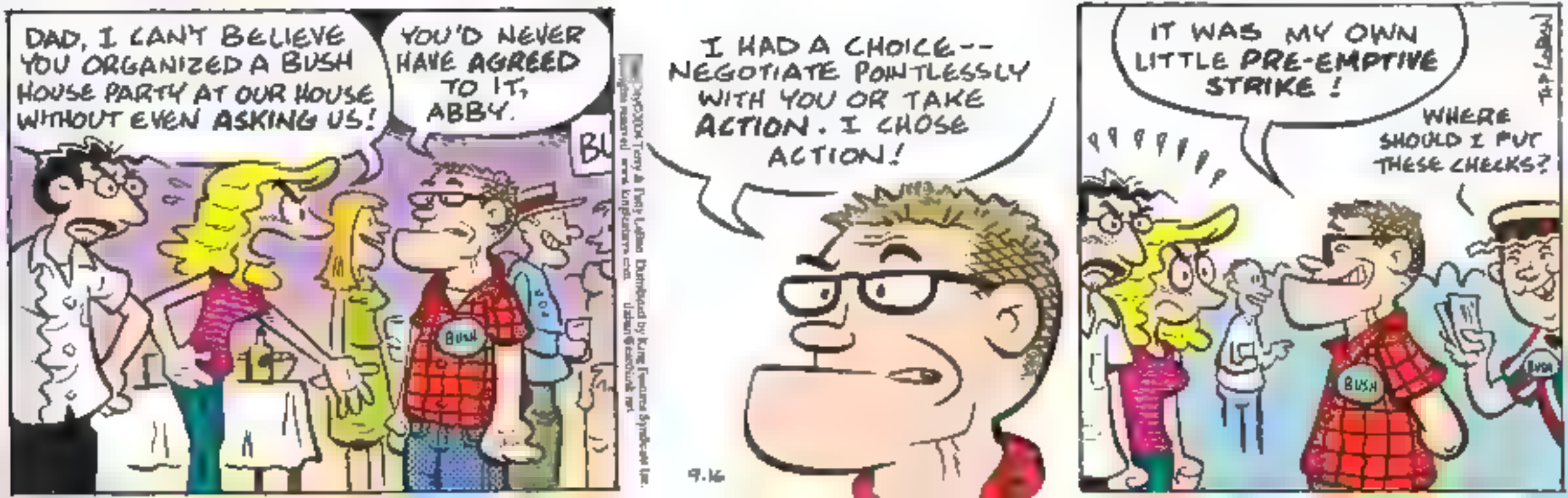

HI, MOM. YOU KNOW DAD SLEPT HERE LAST NIGHT?
YES, ABBY. AND IT'S JUST AS WELL.
I HAD MY KERRY HOUSE PARTY! IT WAS A BIG SUCCESS--WE RAISED $5000 TO HELP BEAT BUSH!
ERRY FOR SIDENT
GREAT, MOM. BUT NOW I THINK YOU AND DAD NEED TO TALK!
YOU'RE RIGHT, HONEY. PUT HIM ON.
9-11
$5000, MORRIS! PUT THAT IN YOUR PIPE AND SMOKE IT!
I HAVE ONLY JUST BEGUN TO FIGHT!

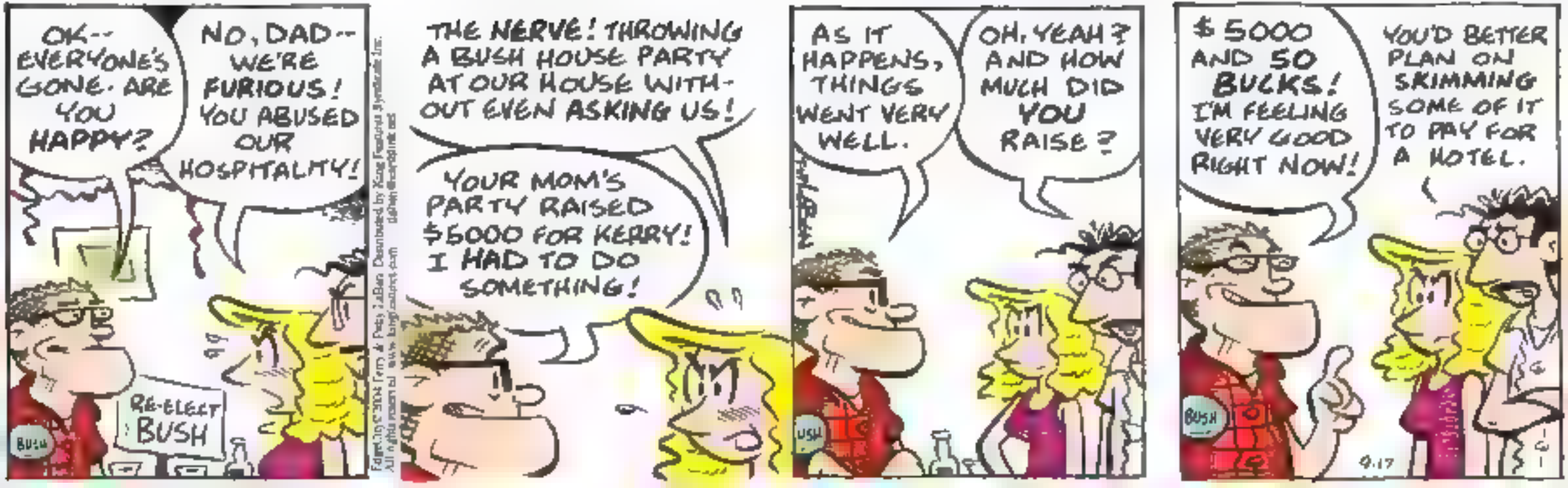

CONSTRUCTION AHEAD
YOUR 9:00 CLIENT IS IN YOUR OFFICE.
MY PROBLEM, DR. ARDIN, IS THAT I'VE BEEN FEELING VERY STRESSED LATELY.

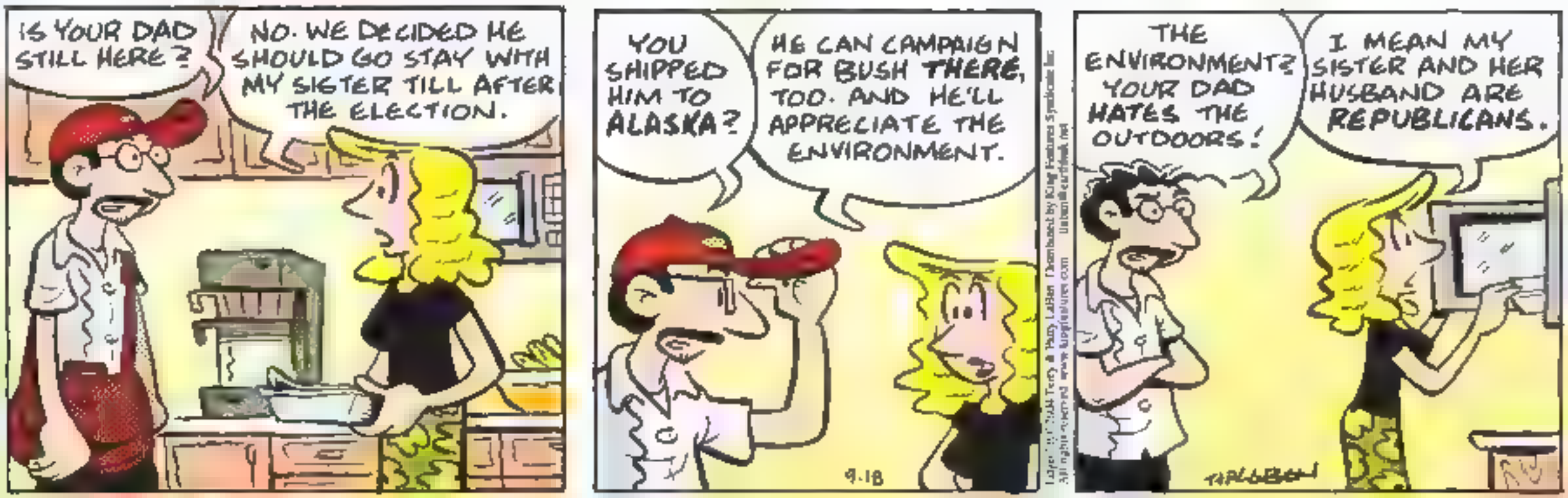

THINK YOUR DAD WILL BE STAYING HERE A LONG TIME?
NOT TOO LONG. HE AND MOM WILL WORK IT OUT.
I'M NOT SO SURE. HE'S FOR BUSH. SHE'S FOR KERRY. THERE'S NOT MUCH MIDDLE GROUND!
IT LOOKS BAD. BUT IT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE.
IN FACT, MY MOM'S KICKED HIM OUT DURING EVERY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SINCE 1972!
I STILL SAY NIXON GOT A RAW DEAL!
TAYLOR
9.13


DAD, I KNOW YOU'RE FRUSTRATED THAT MOM'S AT YOUR HOUSE WORKING FOR THE KERRY CAMPAIGN WHILE YOU HAVE TO STAY HERE.
BUSH
BUT YOU NEED TO RESPECT THE FACT THAT WE DON'T SUPPORT BUSH EITHER!
FIRST MY WIFE KICKS ME OUT. NOW MY DAUGHTER'S TRYING TO STIFLE ME!
YOU PUT 50 "BUSH-CHENEY" SIGNS ON OUR FRONT LAWN!
I KILLED MYSELF RAISING YOU AND THIS IS WHAT I GET!
9.14

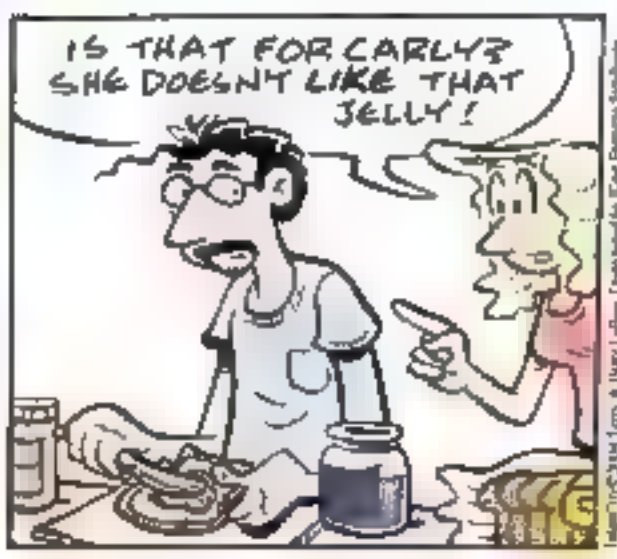
LEN, ABBY--HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF I WENT ON THE INTERNET AND INVITED PEOPLE TO YOUR HOUSE FOR A GEORGE BUSH HOUSE PARTY?
BUSH
9.15
ARE YOU KIDDING, DAD? ABSOLUTELY NOT!
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY.
SO, I WENT AHEAD AND DID IT ANYWAY.
DING DONG!
HEY, WHO ARE ALL THOSE PEOPLE OUTSIDE?
BUSH

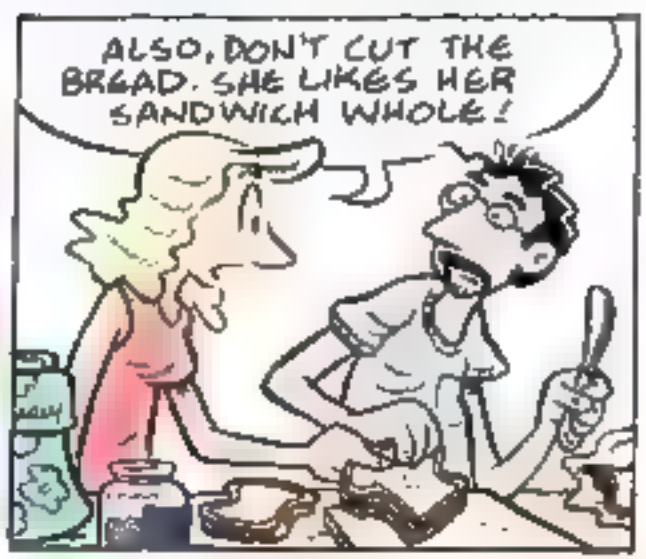

DAD, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ORGANIZED A BUSH HOUSE PARTY AT OUR HOUSE WITHOUT EVEN ASKING US!
YOU'D NEVER HAVE AGREED TO IT, ABBY.
BUSH
I HAD A CHOICE-- NEGOTIATE POINTLESSLY WITH YOU OR TAKE ACTION. I CHOSE ACTION!
9.16
IT WAS MY OWN LITTLE PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE!
WHERE SHOULD I PUT THESE CHECKS?
BUSH


OK-- EVERYONE'S GONE. ARE YOU HAPPY?
NO, DAD-- WE'RE FURIOUS! YOU ABUSED OUR HOSPITALITY!
RE-ELECT BUSH
BUSH
THE NERVE! THROWING A BUSH HOUSE PARTY AT OUR HOUSE WITHOUT EVEN ASKING US!
YOUR MOM'S PARTY RAISED $5000 FOR KERRY! I HAD TO DO SOMETHING!
AS IT HAPPENS, THINGS WENT VERY WELL.
OH, YEAH? AND HOW MUCH DID YOU RAISE?
$5000 AND 50 BUCKS! I'M FEELING VERY GOOD RIGHT NOW!
YOU'D BETTER PLAN ON SKIMMING SOME OF IT TO PAY FOR A HOTEL.
BUSH
9.17


IS YOUR DAD STILL HERE?
NO. WE DECIDED HE SHOULD GO STAY WITH MY SISTER TILL AFTER THE ELECTION.
YOU SHIPPED HIM TO ALASKA?
HE CAN CAMPAIGN FOR BUSH THERE, TOO. AND HE'LL APPRECIATE THE ENVIRONMENT.
9-18
THE ENVIRONMENT? YOUR DAD HATES THE OUTDOORS!
I MEAN MY SISTER AND HER HUSBAND ARE REPUBLICANS.

LEN, I NEED TO DO SOME PAPERWORK. WOULD YOU MAKE THE KIDS' LUNCHES?
I GUESS SO.

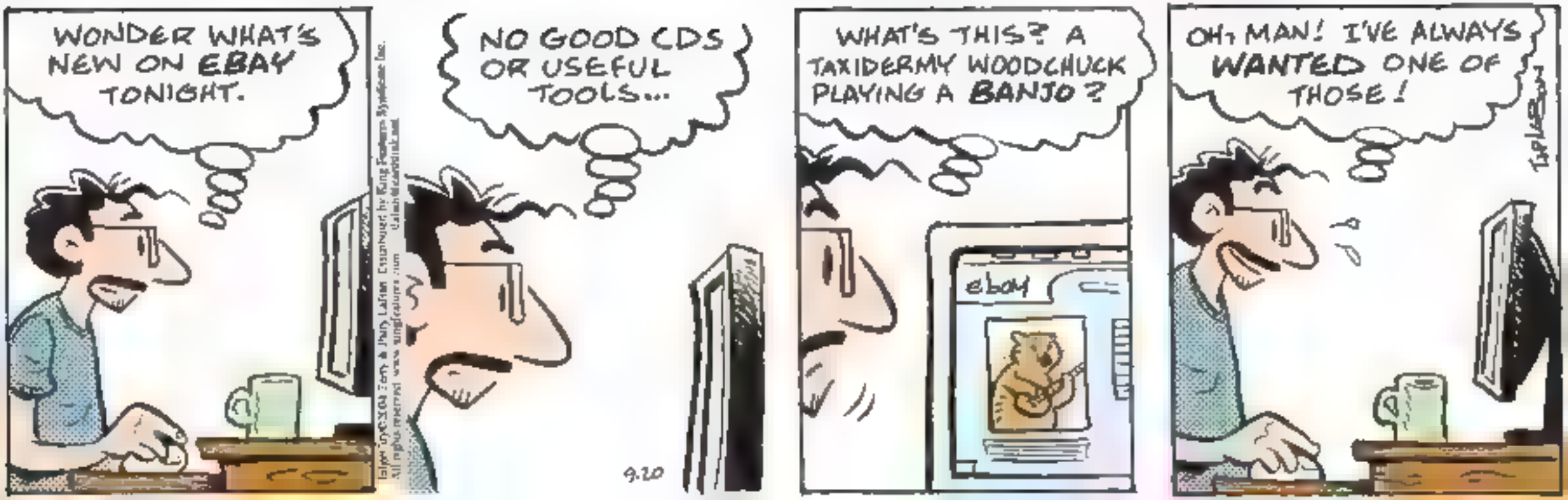

IS THAT FOR CARLY? SHE DOESN'T LIKE THAT JELLY!


ALSO, DON'T CUT THE BREAD. SHE LIKES HER SANDWICH WHOLE!

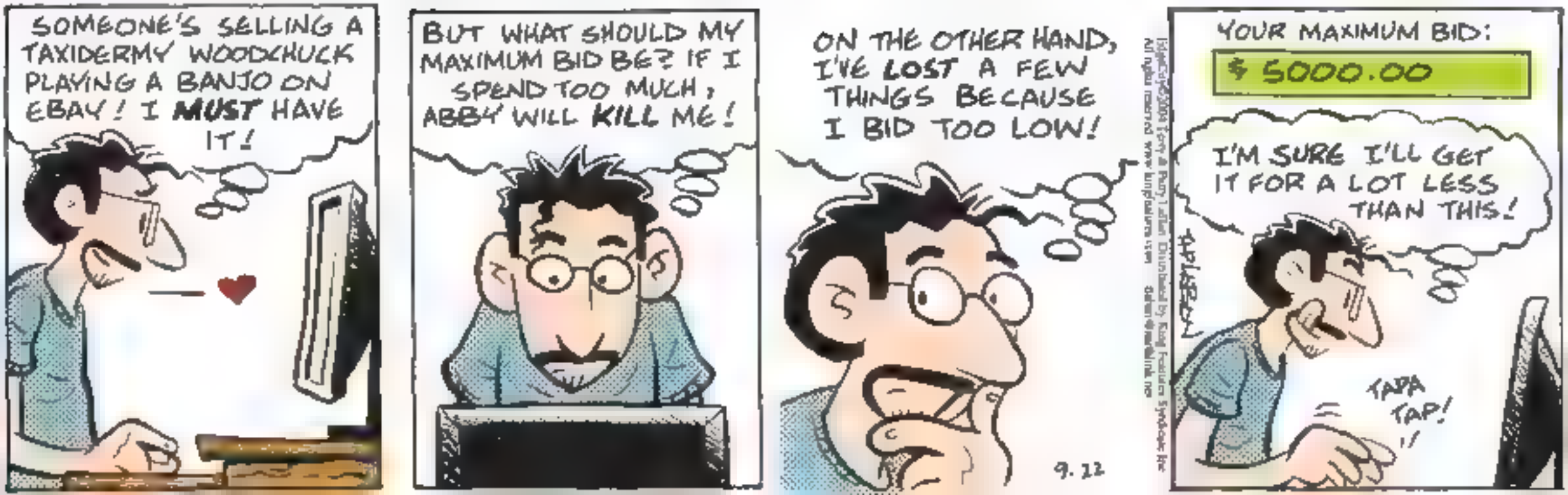
DON'T GIVE THEM CHIPS. GIVE THEM FRUIT INSTEAD.
AND MAKE SURE YOU PUT IN JUICE BOXES. NAPKINS, TOO.

THIS IS POINTLESS, ABBY! WHY DON'T YOU JUST DO IT YOURSELF?

WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO GET YOU TO HELP OUT AROUND HERE?
9.19

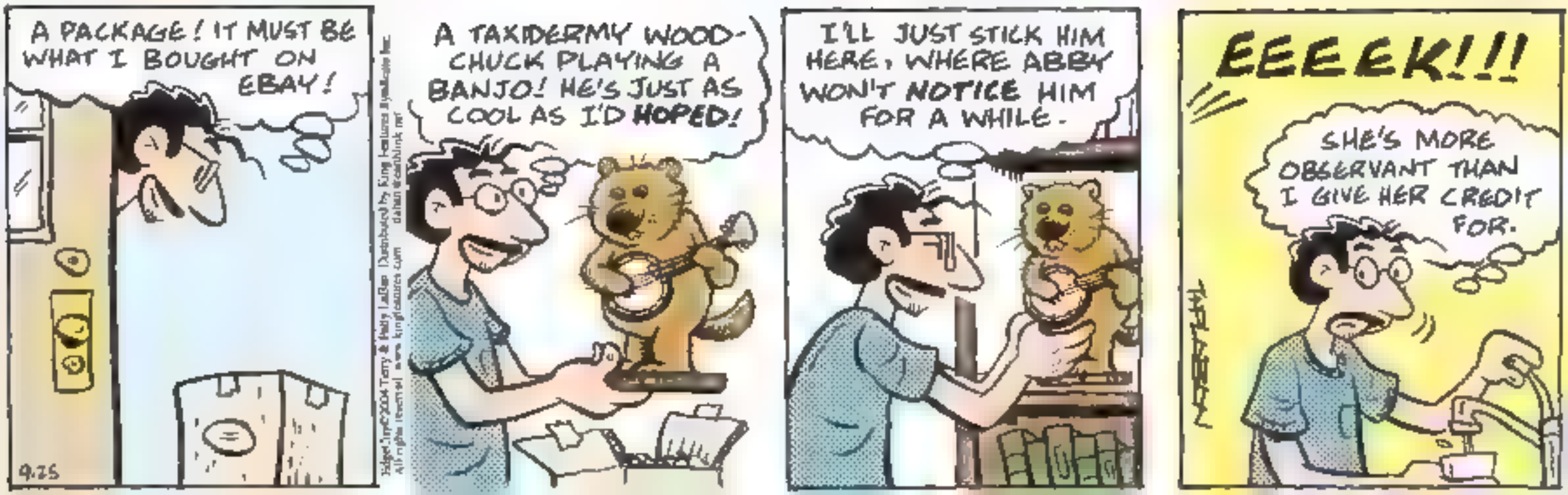

WONDER WHAT'S NEW ON EBAY TONIGHT.
NO GOOD CDS OR USEFUL TOOLS...
9.20
WHAT'S THIS? A TAXIDERMY WOODCHUCK PLAYING A BANJO?
ebay
OH, MAN! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED ONE OF THOSE!

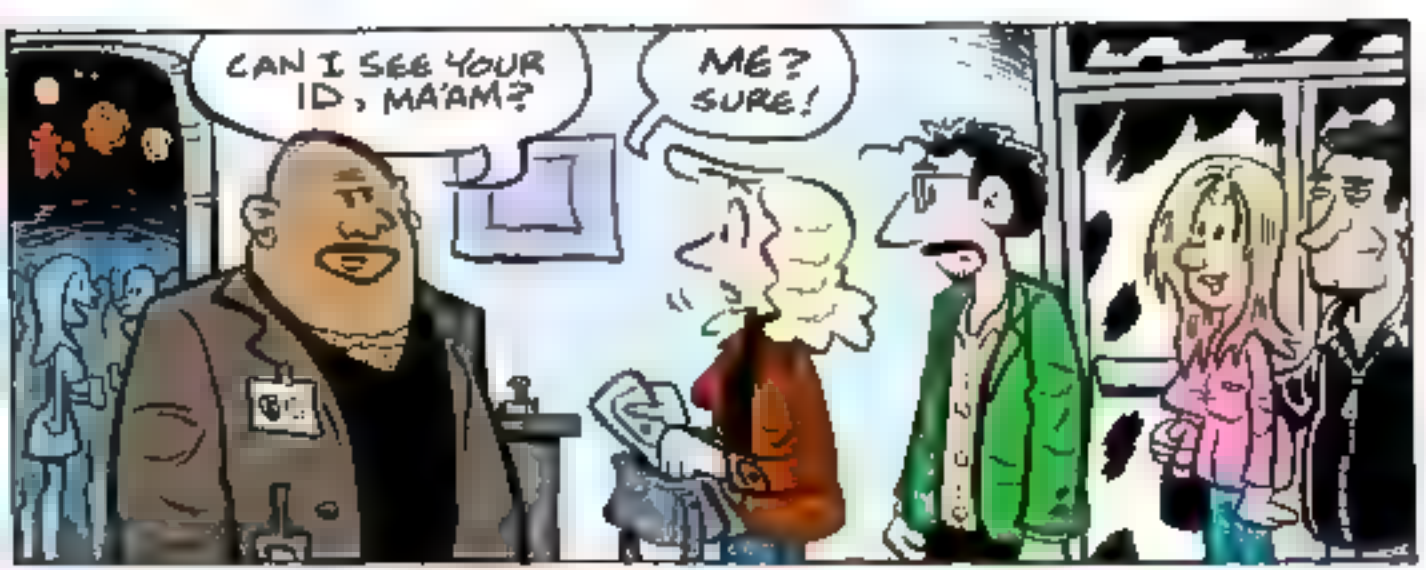
THERE'S A TAXIDERMY WOODCHUCK PLAYING A BANJO FOR SALE ON EBAY. IT'S SOOO COOL!
BUT IF I BUY IT, ABBY WILL FREAK OUT! SHE'LL THINK IT'S HORRIBLE AND PERVERSE!
9.21
WELL, SHE CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T CONSIDER HER FEELINGS!
PLACE BID >
CLICK!

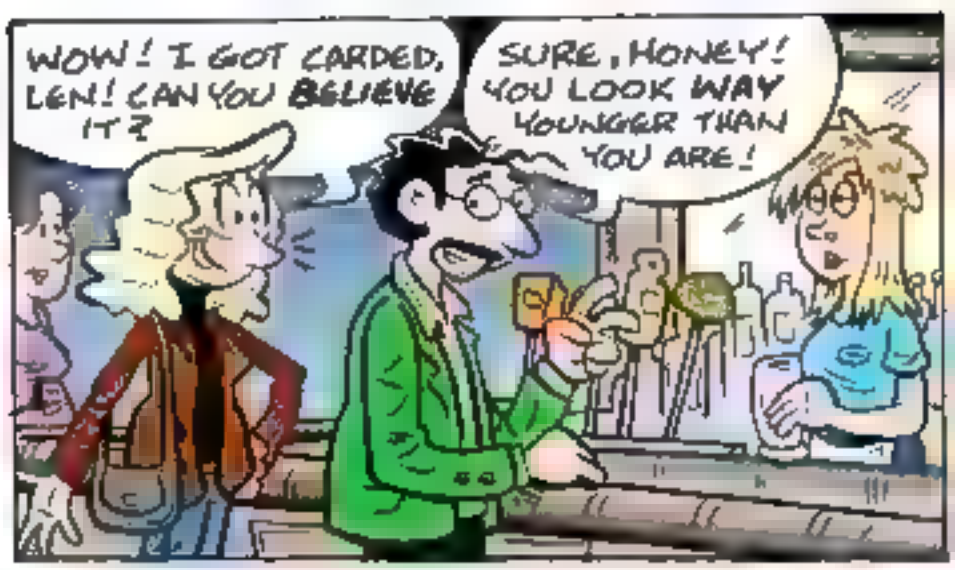

SOMEONE'S SELLING A TAXIDERMY WOODCHUCK PLAYING A BANJO ON EBAY! I MUST HAVE IT!
BUT WHAT SHOULD MY MAXIMUM BID BE? IF I SPEND TOO MUCH, ABBY WILL KILL ME!
ON THE OTHER HAND, I'VE LOST A FEW THINGS BECAUSE I BID TOO LOW!
9.22
YOUR MAXIMUM BID:
$ 5000.00
I'M SURE I'LL GET IT FOR A LOT LESS THAN THIS!
TAPPA TAP!

HEY, LEN... WHEN IS OUR MEETING THIS AFTERNOON?
ABOUT 3 HOURS BEFORE MY AUCTION ENDS.
EBAY STANDARD TIME, HUH?
9.23

WOOHOO! I GOT IT!
I WON MY AUCTION ON EBAY! I BOUGHT A TAXIDERMY WOODCHUCK PLAYING A BANJO!
A STUFFED WOODCHUCK PLAYING A BANJO?!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH IT?
HIDE IT FROM MY WIFE.
9.24

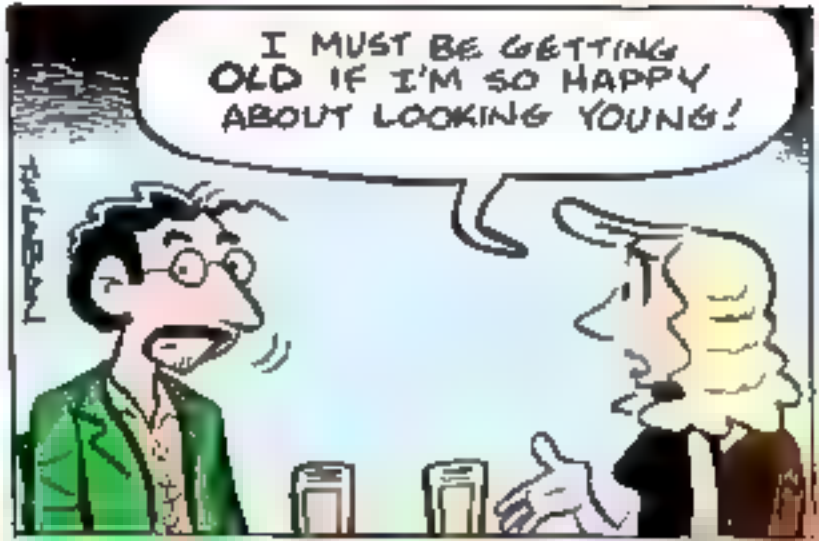

A PACKAGE! IT MUST BE WHAT I BOUGHT ON EBAY!
9.25
A TAXIDERMY WOOD-CHUCK PLAYING A BANJO! HE'S JUST AS COOL AS I'D HOPED!
I'LL JUST STICK HIM HERE, WHERE ABBY WON'T NOTICE HIM FOR A WHILE.
EEEEK!!!
SHE'S MORE OBSERVANT THAN I GIVE HER CREDIT FOR.


CAN I SEE YOUR ID, MA'AM?
ME? SURE!


WOW! I GOT CARDED, LEN! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
SURE, HONEY! YOU LOOK WAY YOUNGER THAN YOU ARE!

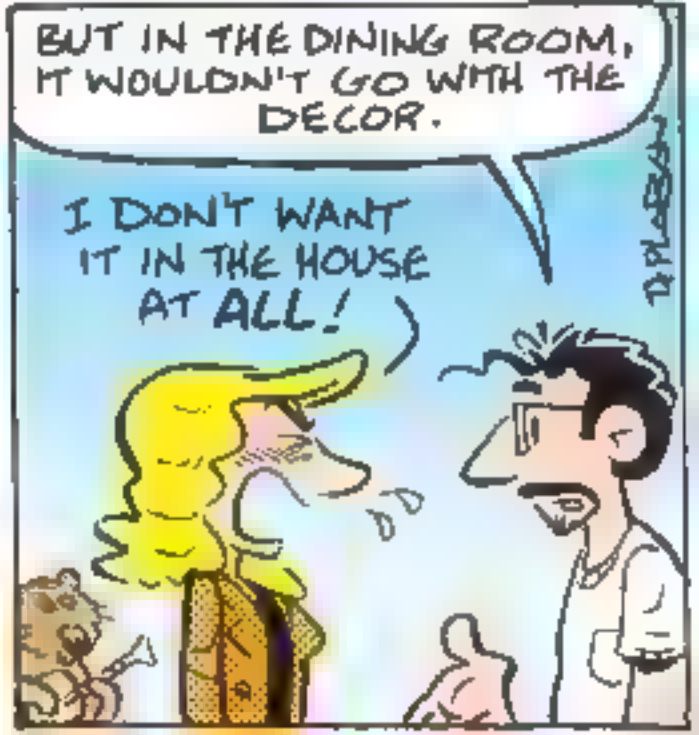
YEAH...
?
SIGH!

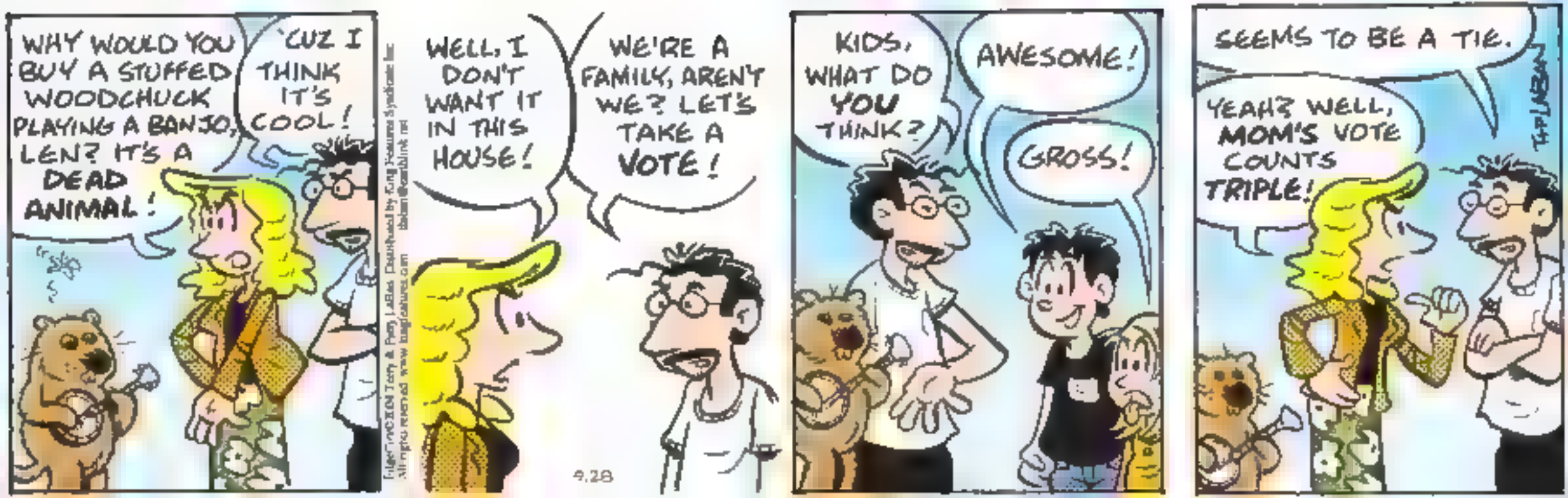
WHAT'S WRONG?
I JUST REALIZED SOMETHING.


I MUST BE GETTING OLD IF I'M SO HAPPY ABOUT LOOKING YOUNG!

LEN, WHAT IS THAT?
IT'S A STUFFED WOODCHUCK PLAYING A BANJO.

A REAL WOODCHUCK? THAT'S HORRIBLE! I HOPE YOU DON'T PLAN TO LEAVE IT IN THE LIVING ROOM!
9.27


BUT IN THE DINING ROOM, IT WOULDN'T GO WITH THE DECOR.
I DON'T WANT IT IN THE HOUSE AT ALL!
D. PLABAN



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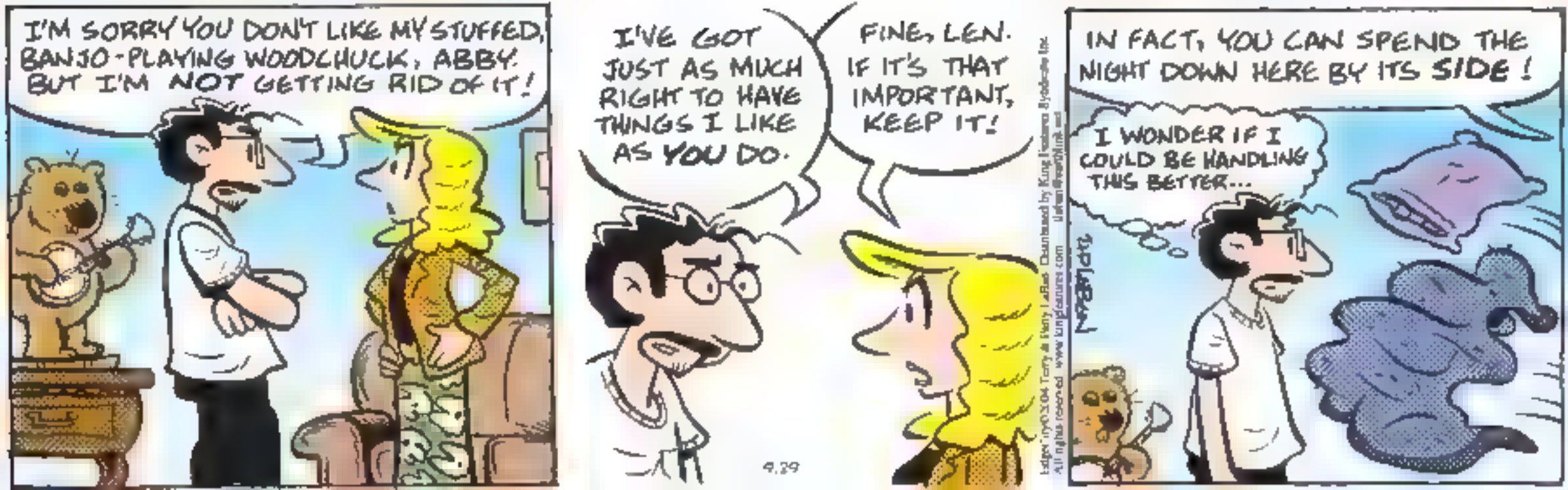

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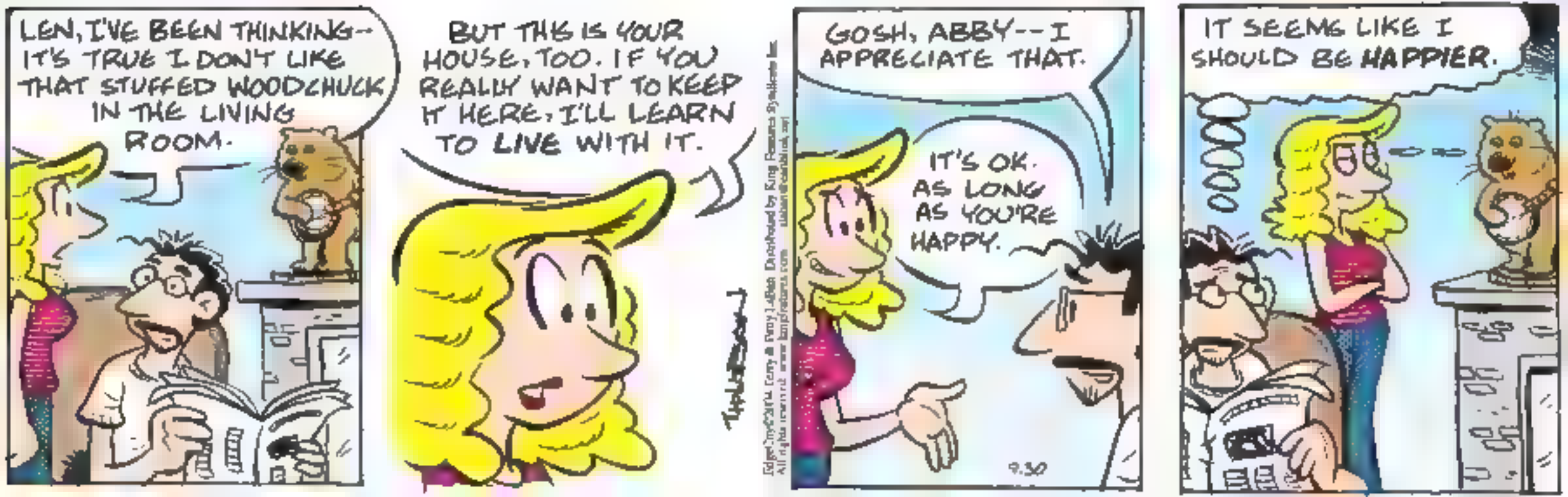
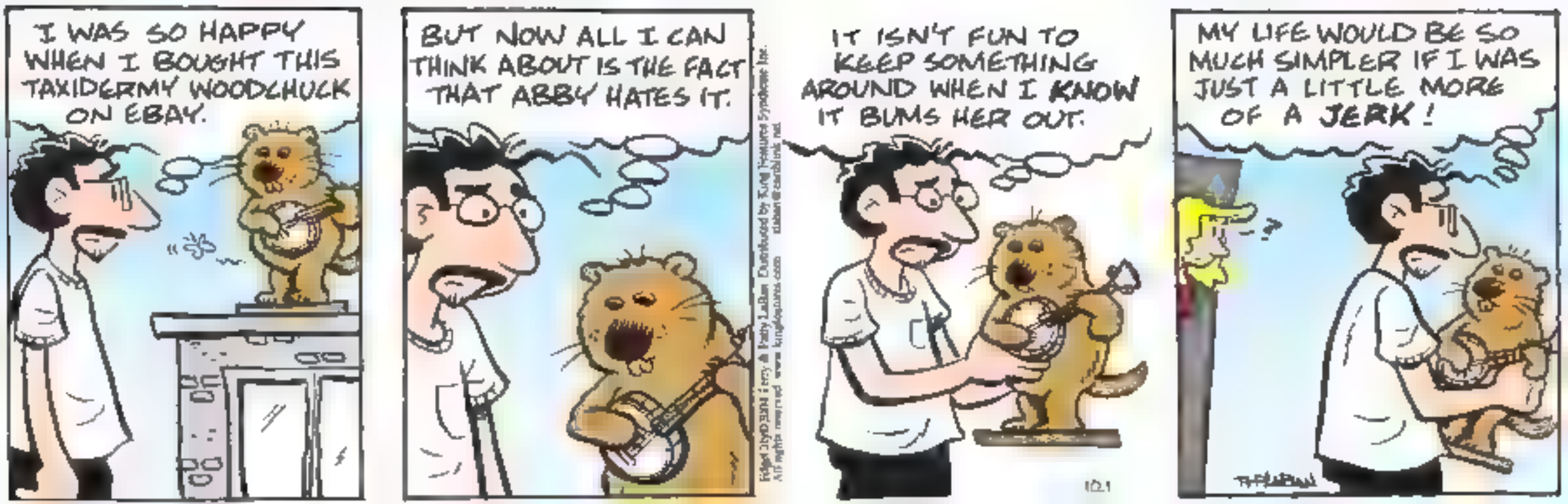
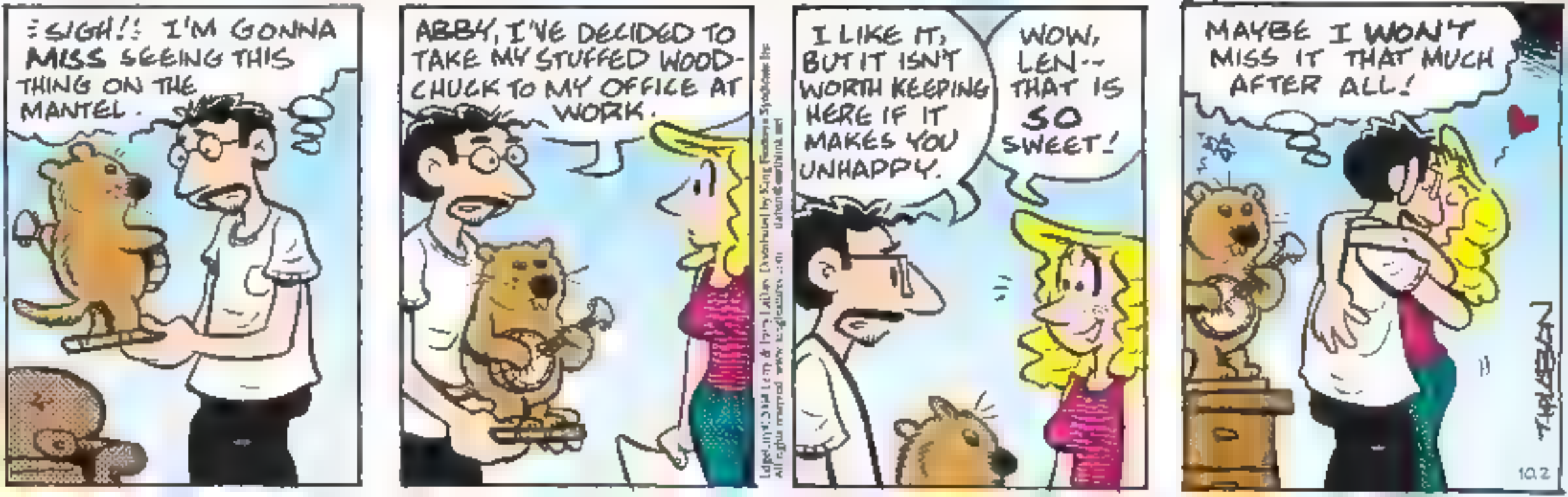
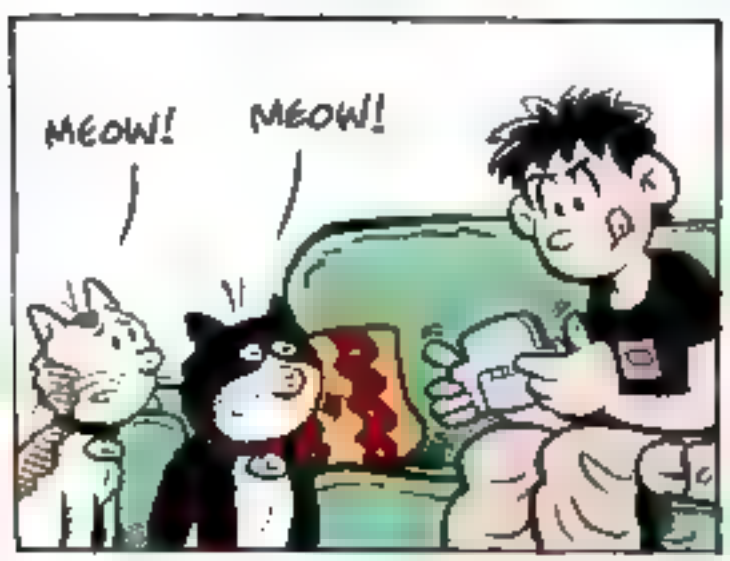
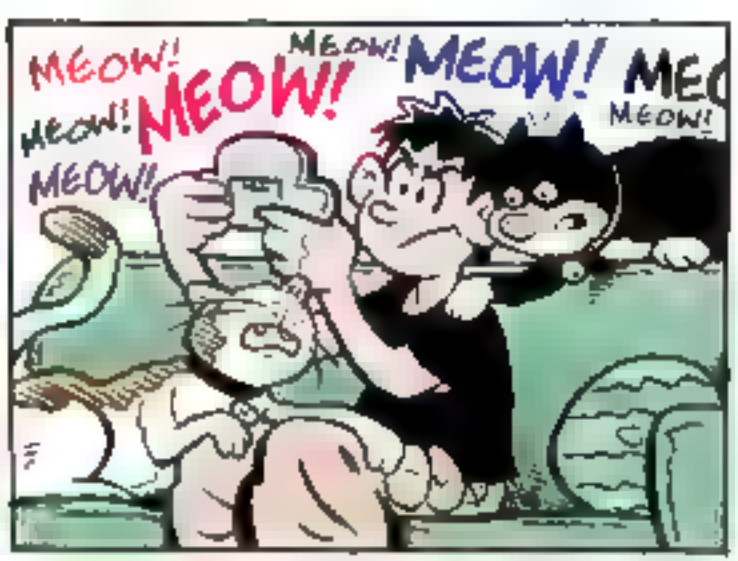

LEN, I'VE BEEN THINKING-- IT'S TRUE I DON'T LIKE THAT STUFFED WOODCHUCK IN THE LIVING ROOM.
BUT THIS IS YOUR HOUSE, TOO. IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KEEP IT HERE, I'LL LEARN TO LIVE WITH IT.
GOSH, ABBY--I APPRECIATE THAT.
IT'S OK. AS LONG AS YOU'RE HAPPY.
9.30
IT SEEMS LIKE I SHOULD BE HAPPIER.


I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN I BOUGHT THIS TAXIDERMY WOODCHUCK ON EBAY.
BUT NOW ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS THE FACT THAT ABBY HATES IT.
IT ISN'T FUN TO KEEP SOMETHING AROUND WHEN I KNOW IT BUMS HER OUT.
MY LIFE WOULD BE SO MUCH SIMPLER IF I WAS JUST A LITTLE MORE OF A JERK!

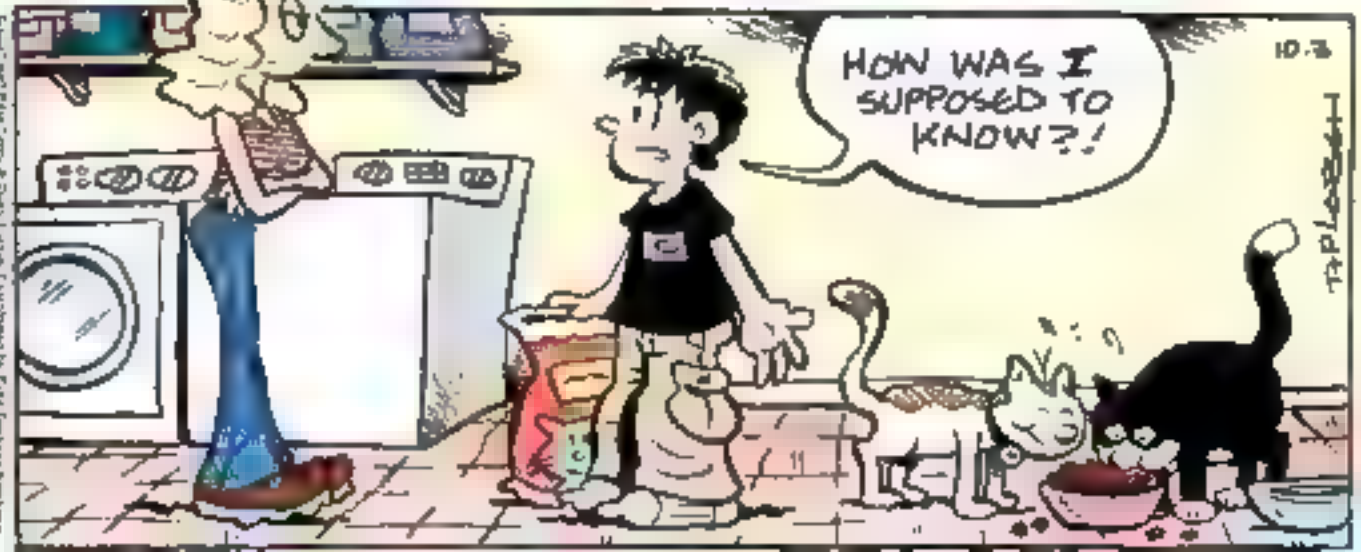

SIGH!! I'M GONNA MISS SEEING THIS THING ON THE MANTEL.
ABBY, I'VE DECIDED TO TAKE MY STUFFED WOODCHUCK TO MY OFFICE AT WORK.
I LIKE IT, BUT IT ISN'T WORTH KEEPING HERE IF IT MAKES YOU UNHAPPY.
WOW, LEN-- THAT IS SO SWEET!
MAYBE I WON'T MISS IT THAT MUCH AFTER ALL!
THALBEN
10.2

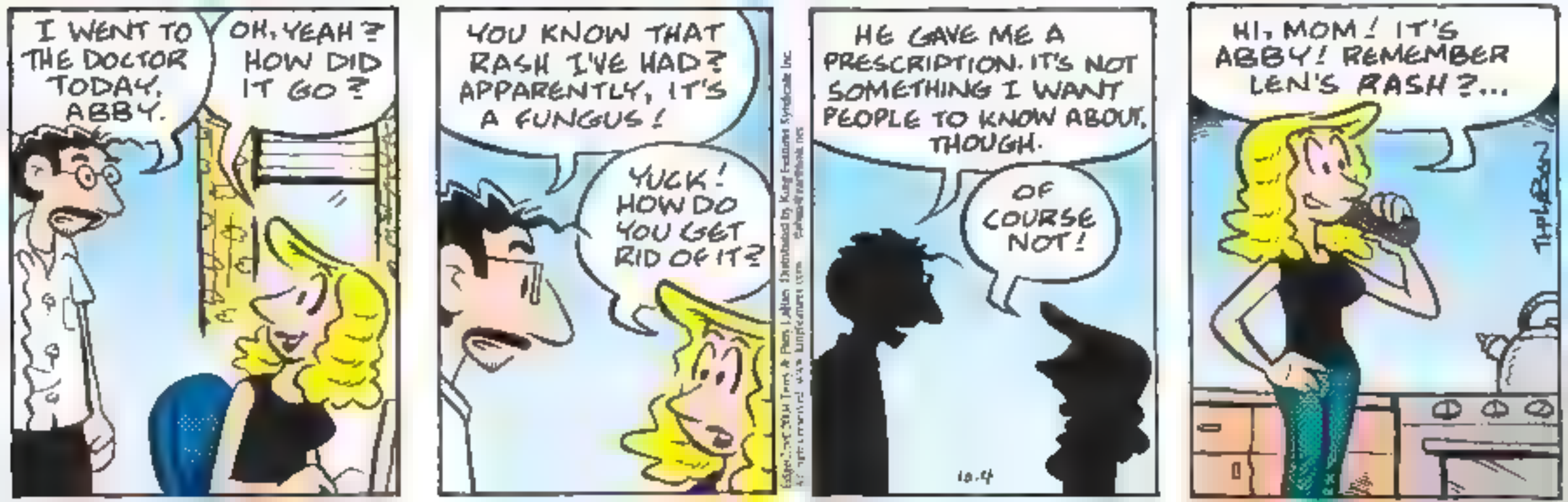

MEOW!
MEOW!

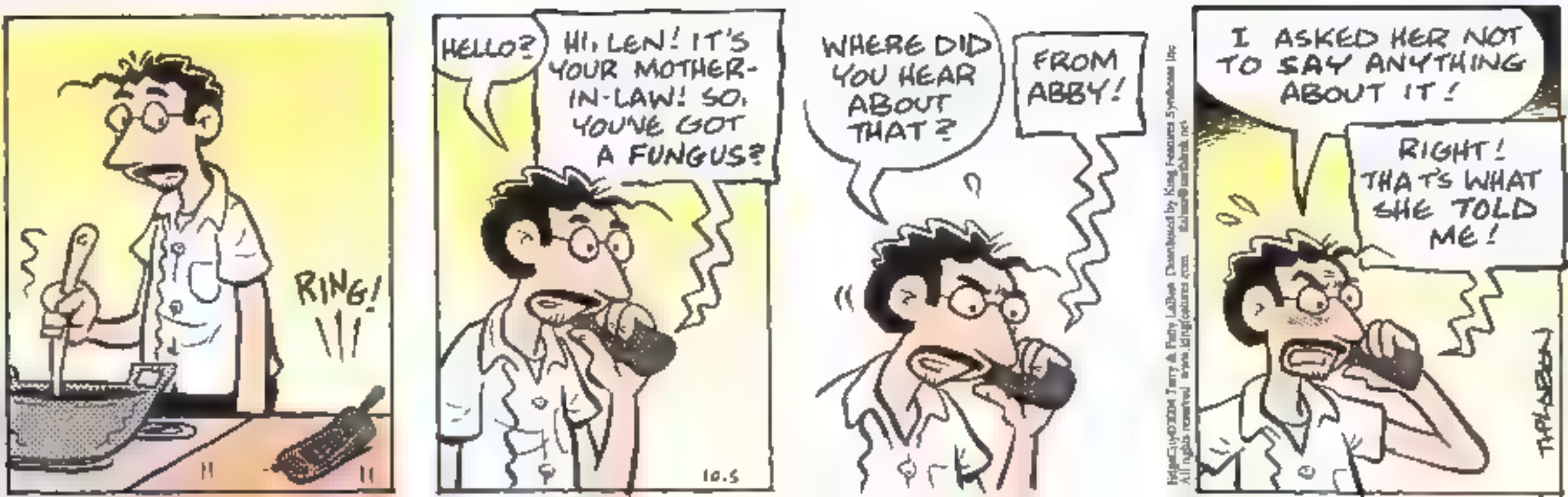
MEOW! MEOW!
MEOW! MEOW!


MEOW!
MEOW!
MEOW!
MEOW!
MEOW!
MEOW!
MEOW!

COLIN, ISN'T IT YOUR JOB TO FEED THE CATS THIS WEEK? THEIR BOWL IS COMPLETELY EMPTY!


HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?!
10.3


I WENT TO THE DOCTOR TODAY, ABBY.
OH, YEAH? HOW DID IT GO?
YOU KNOW THAT RASH I'VE HAD? APPARENTLY, IT'S A FUNGUS!
YUCK! HOW DO YOU GET RID OF IT?
HE GAVE ME A PRESCRIPTION. IT'S NOT SOMETHING I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT, THOUGH.
OF COURSE NOT!
10-4
HI, MOM! IT'S ABBY! REMEMBER LEN'S RASH?...



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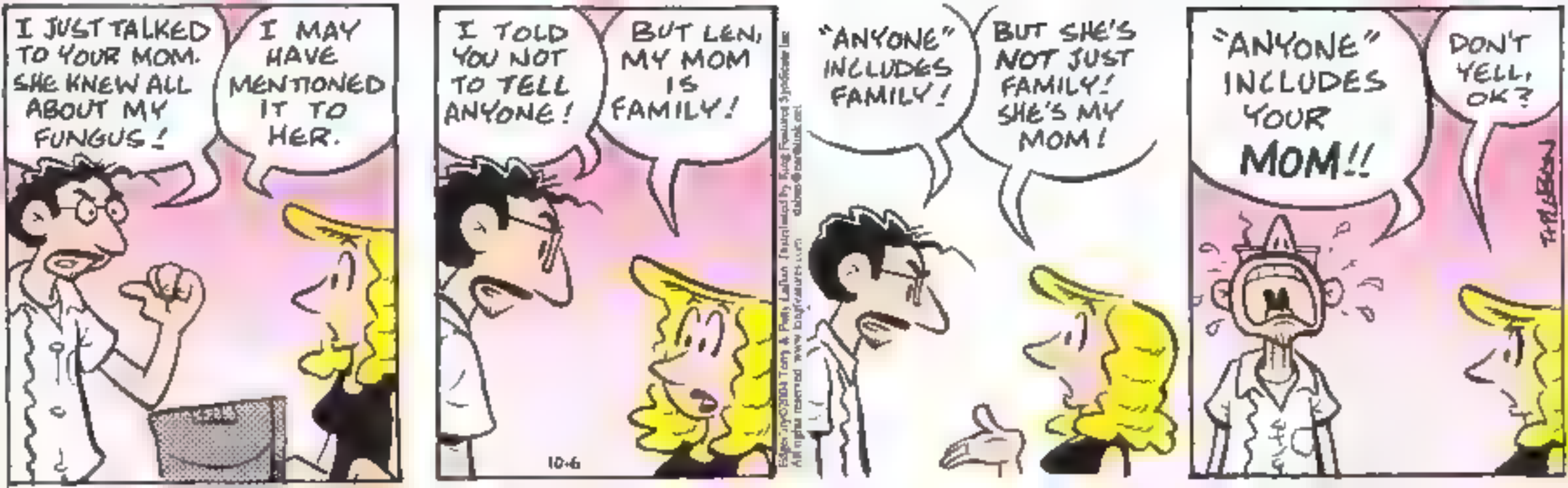
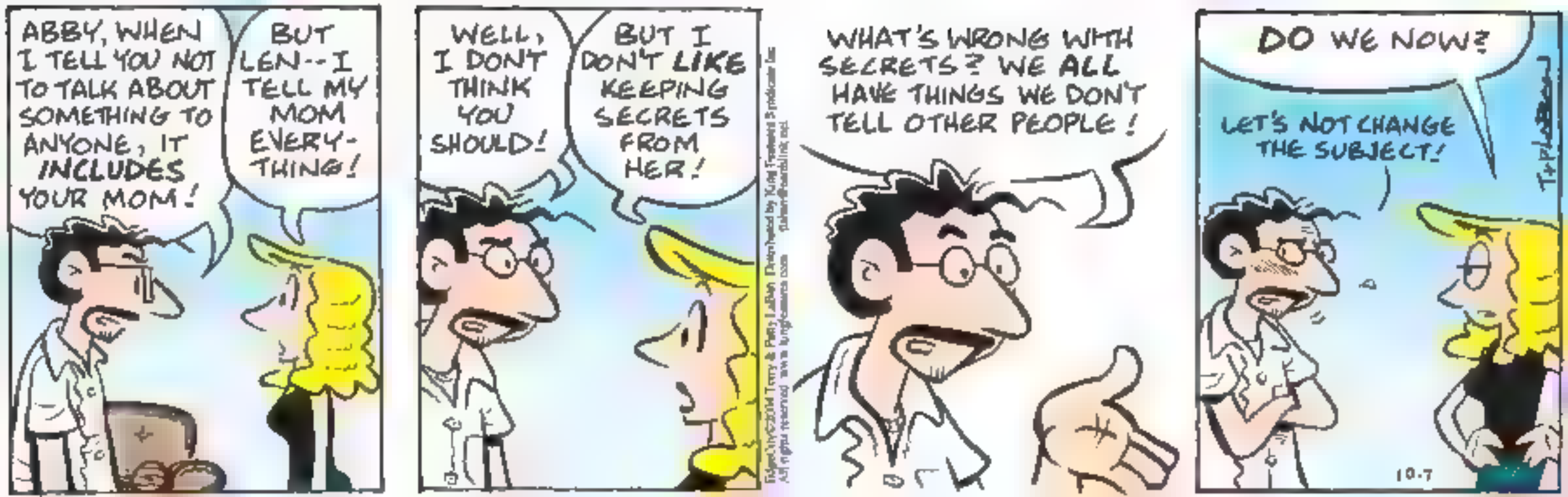
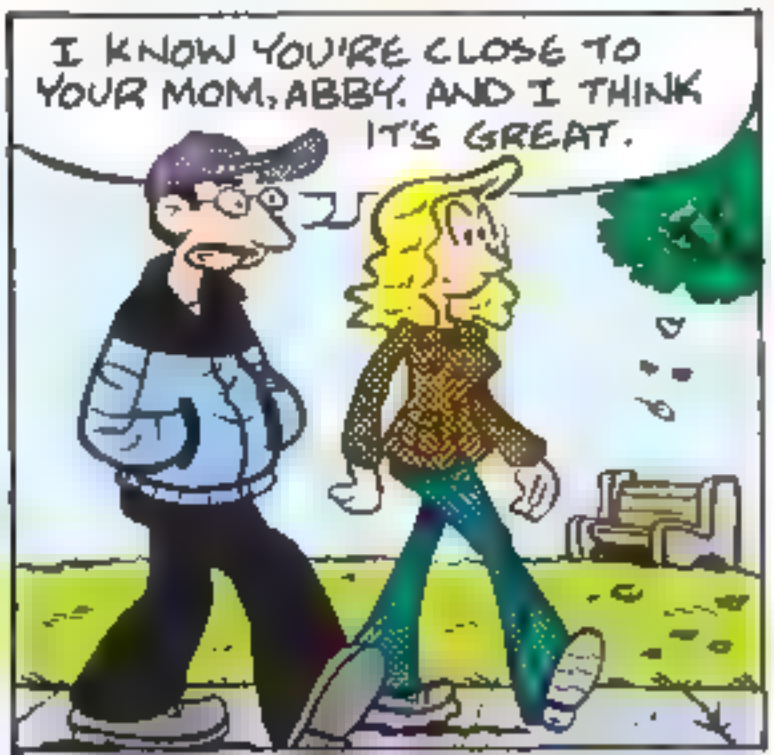
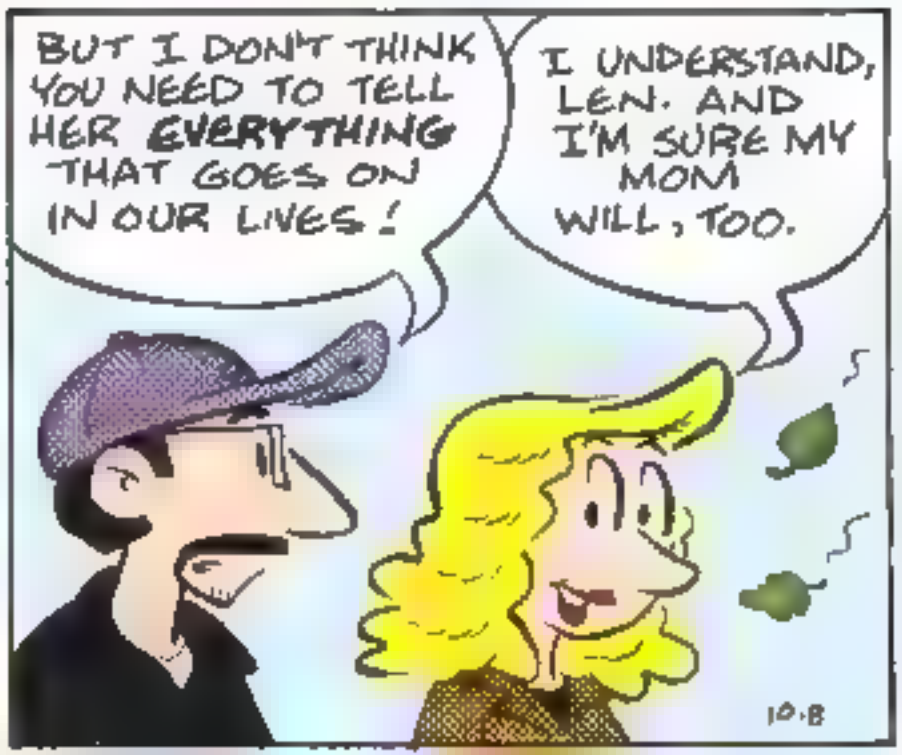

I JUST TALKED TO YOUR MOM. SHE KNEW ALL ABOUT MY FUNGUS!
I MAY HAVE MENTIONED IT TO HER.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO TELL ANYONE!
BUT LEN, MY MOM IS FAMILY!
10-6
"ANYONE" INCLUDES FAMILY!
BUT SHE'S NOT JUST FAMILY! SHE'S MY MOM!
"ANYONE" INCLUDES YOUR MOM!!
DON'T YELL, OK?


ABBY, WHEN I TELL YOU NOT TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING TO ANYONE, IT INCLUDES YOUR MOM!
BUT LEN--I TELL MY MOM EVERY-THING!
WELL, I DONT THINK YOU SHOULD!
BUT I DON'T LIKE KEEPING SECRETS FROM HER!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH SECRETS? WE ALL HAVE THINGS WE DON'T TELL OTHER PEOPLE!
DO WE NOW?
LET'S NOT CHANGE THE SUBJECT!
10-7





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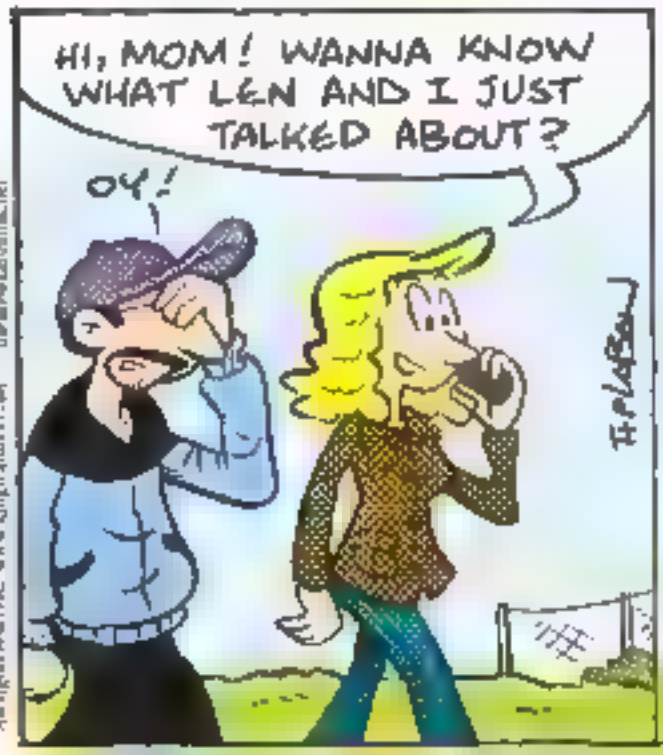
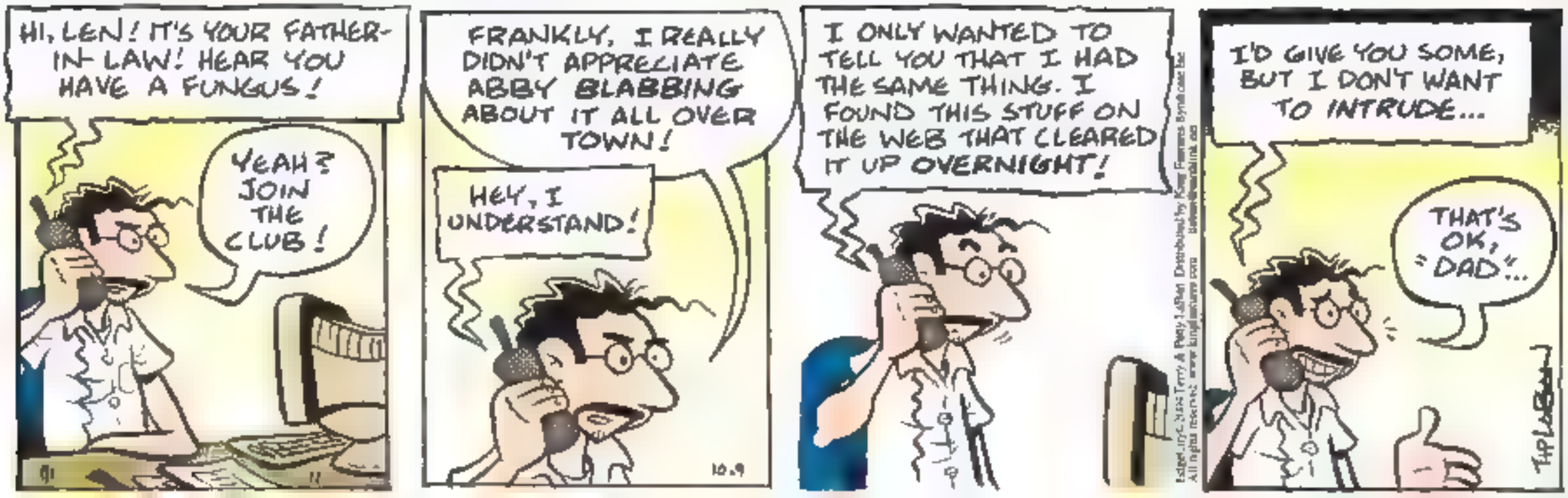
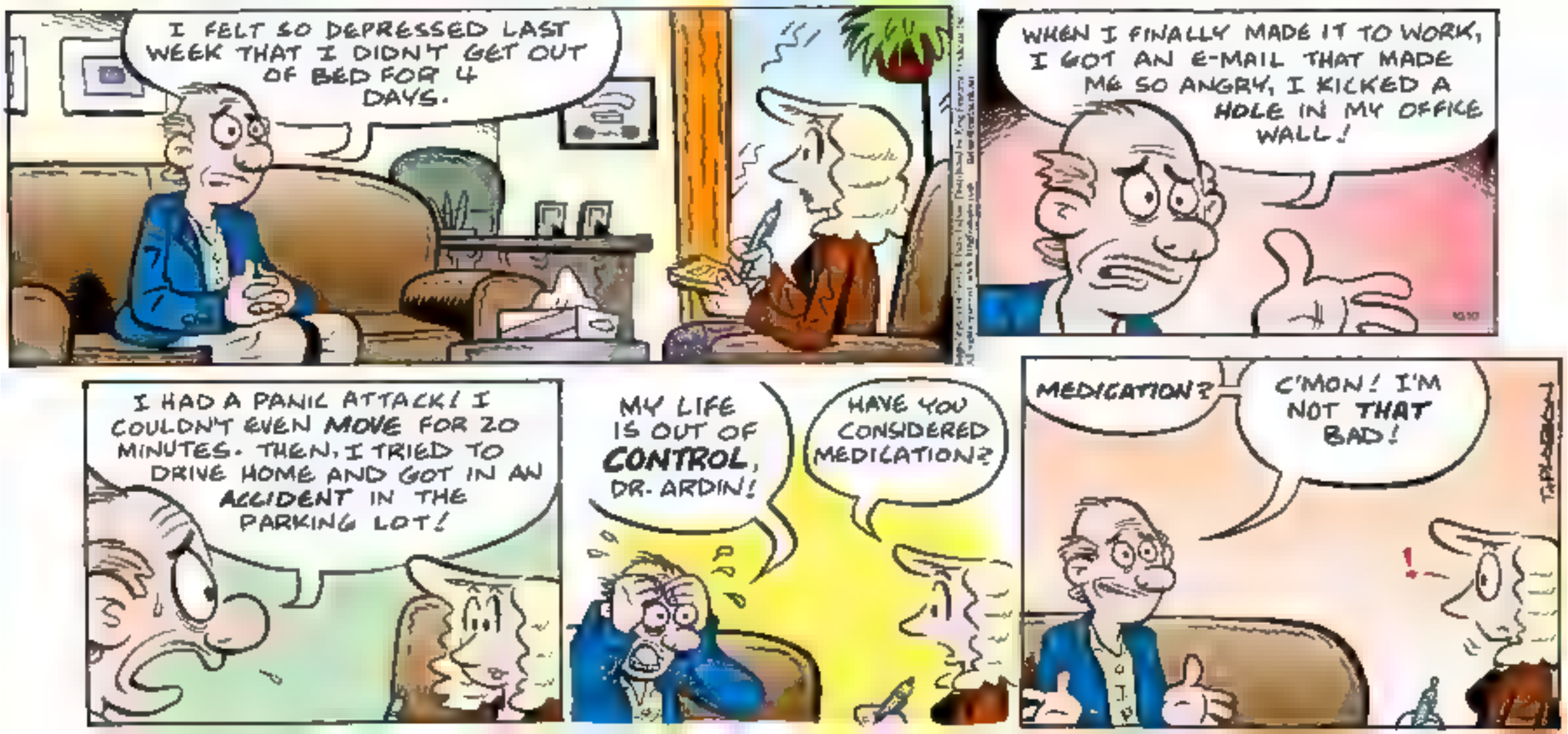
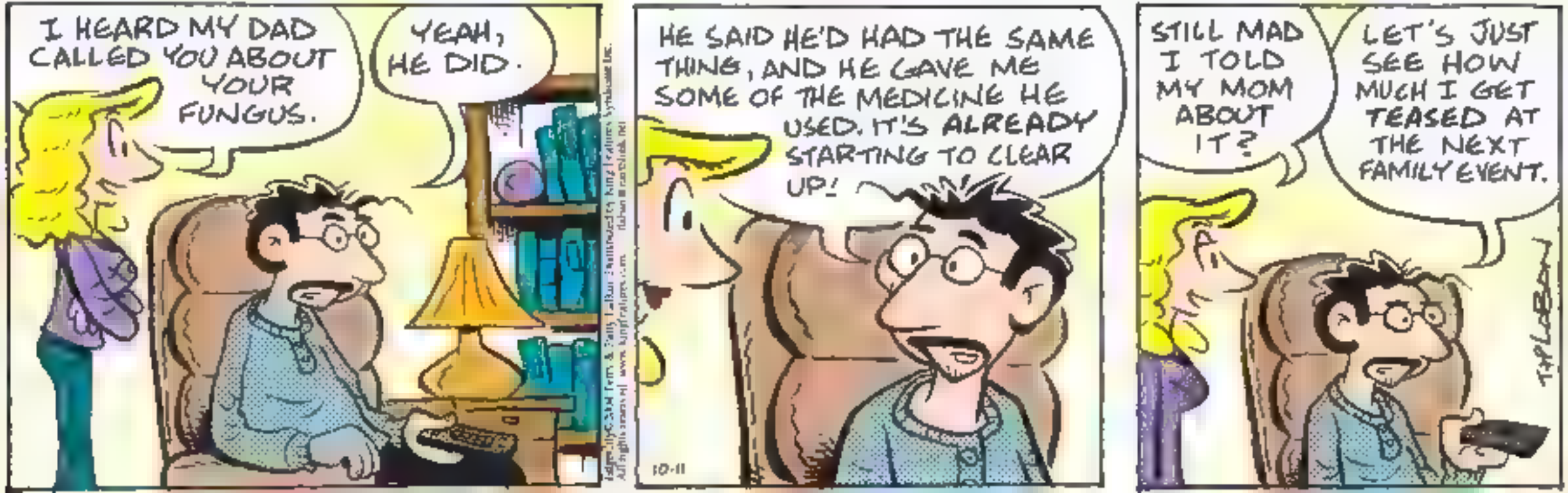
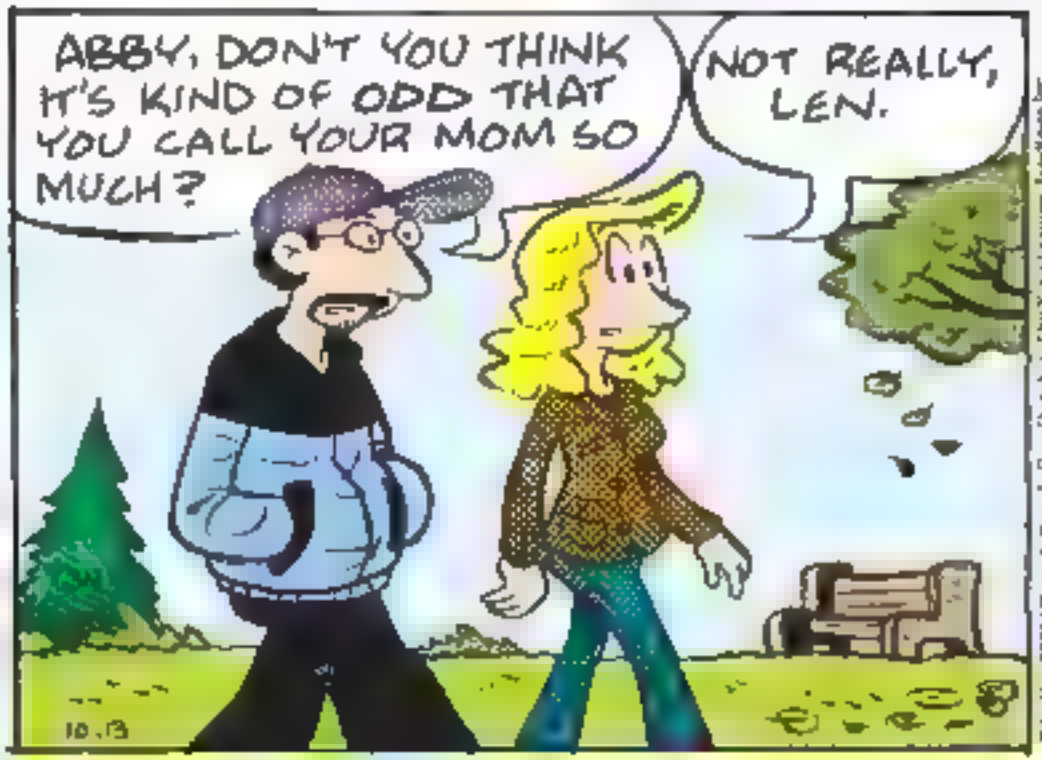



HI, LEN! IT'S YOUR FATHER-IN-LAW! HEAR YOU HAVE A FUNGUS!
YEAH? JOIN THE CLUB!
FRANKLY, I REALLY DIDN'T APPRECIATE ABBY BLABBING ABOUT IT ALL OVER TOWN!
HEY, I UNDERSTAND!
10.9
I ONLY WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT I HAD THE SAME THING. I FOUND THIS STUFF ON THE WEB THAT CLEARED IT UP OVERNIGHT!
I'D GIVE YOU SOME, BUT I DON'T WANT TO INTRUDE...
THAT'S OK, "DAD"...

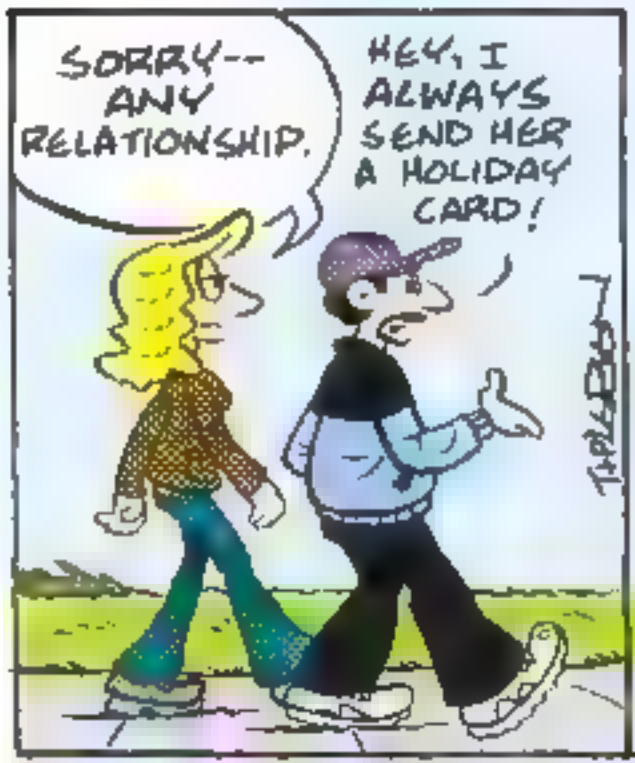

I FELT SO DEPRESSED LAST WEEK THAT I DIDN'T GET OUT OF BED FOR 4 DAYS.
WHEN I FINALLY MADE IT TO WORK, I GOT AN E-MAIL THAT MADE ME SO ANGRY, I KICKED A HOLE IN MY OFFICE WALL!
I HAD A PANIC ATTACK! I COULDN'T EVEN MOVE FOR 20 MINUTES. THEN, I TRIED TO DRIVE HOME AND GOT IN AN ACCIDENT IN THE PARKING LOT!
MY LIFE IS OUT OF CONTROL, DR. ARDIN!
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED MEDICATION?
MEDICATION?
C'MON! I'M NOT THAT BAD!

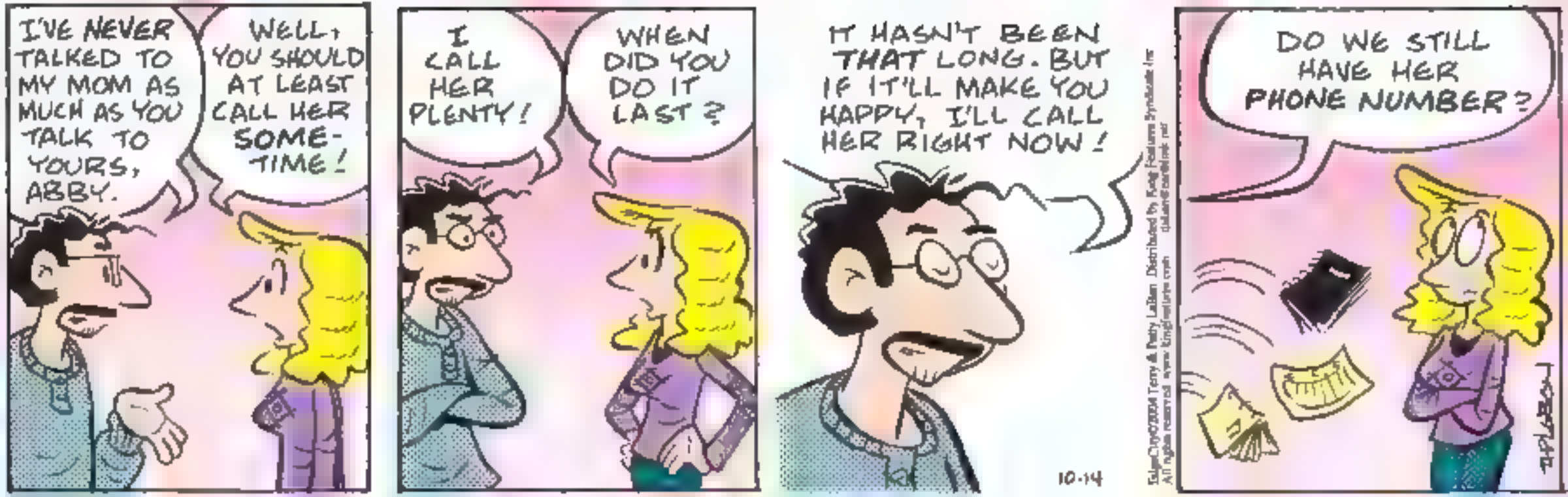

I HEARD MY DAD CALLED YOU ABOUT YOUR FUNGUS.
YEAH, HE DID.
HE SAID HE'D HAD THE SAME THING, AND HE GAVE ME SOME OF THE MEDICINE HE USED. IT'S ALREADY STARTING TO CLEAR UP!
10-11
STILL MAD I TOLD MY MOM ABOUT IT?
LET'S JUST SEE HOW MUCH I GET TEASED AT THE NEXT FAMILY EVENT.
TAYLOR

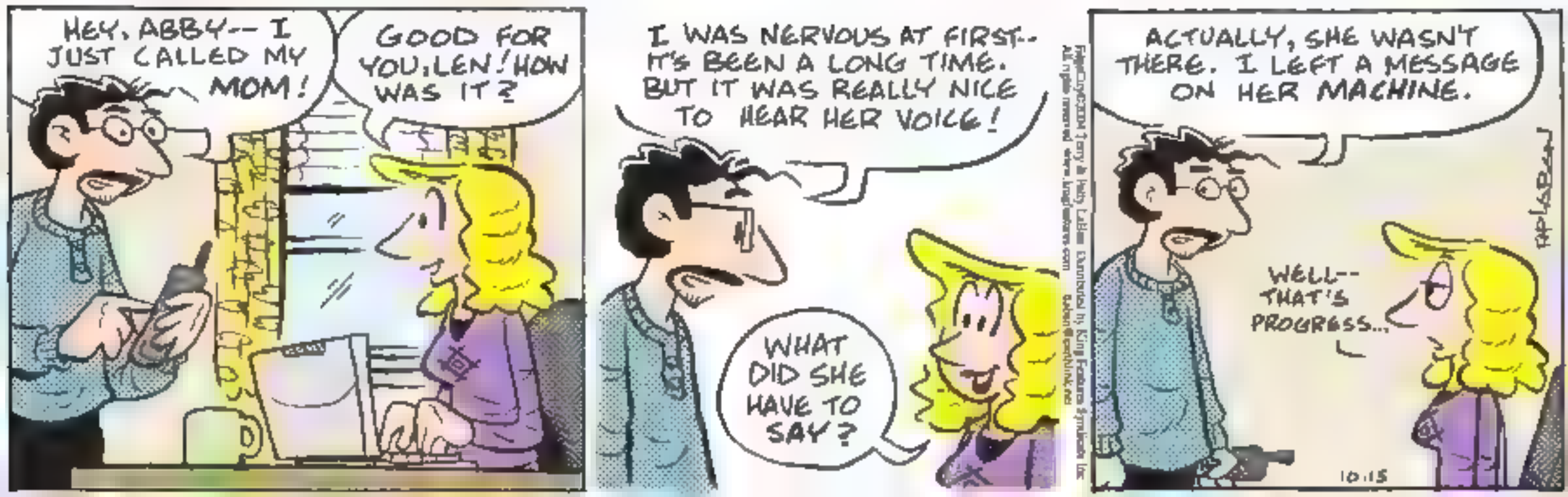
YOU'RE RIGHT, LEN--MY MOM DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW ALL OUR PERSONAL BUSINESS.
FROM NOW ON, WHEN I TALK TO HER, I'M GOING TO BE A LOT MORE CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT I TELL HER!
I CAN'T SAY HIS NAME, MOM. LET'S JUST CALL HIM "L."
OH-- I SEE!

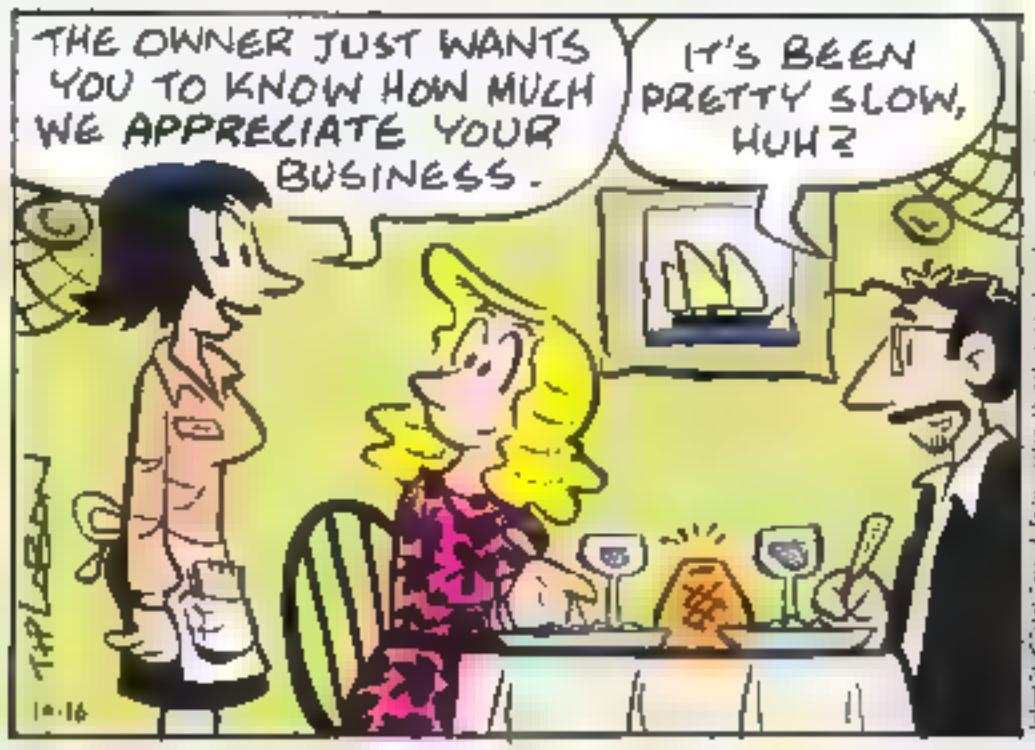

ABBY, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S KIND OF ODD THAT YOU CALL YOUR MOM SO MUCH?
NOT REALLY, LEN.
10.13

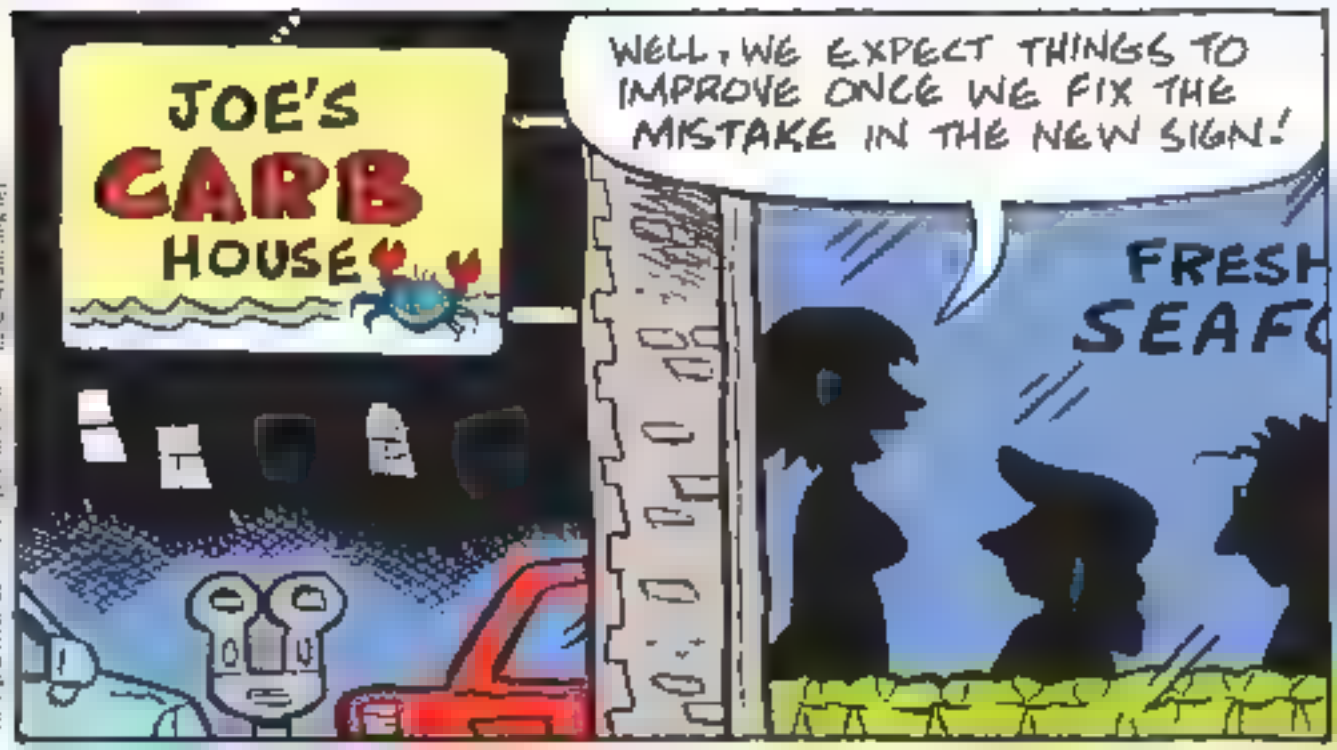
YOU WOULDN'T THINK IT WAS ODD, EITHER, IF YOU HAD A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR MOM!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "A BETTER RELATIONSHIP"?

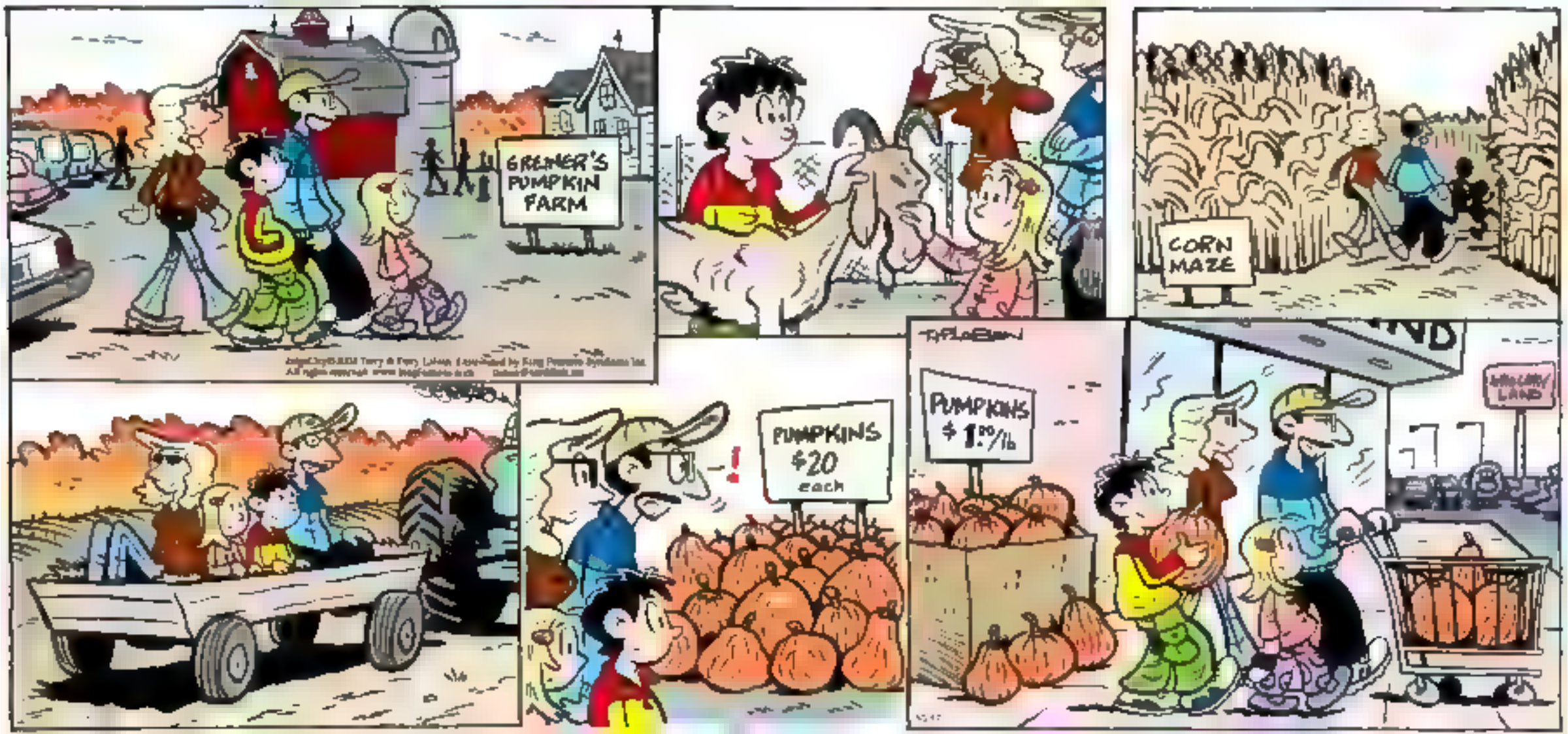

SORRY-- ANY RELATIONSHIP.
HEY, I ALWAYS SEND HER A HOLIDAY CARD!

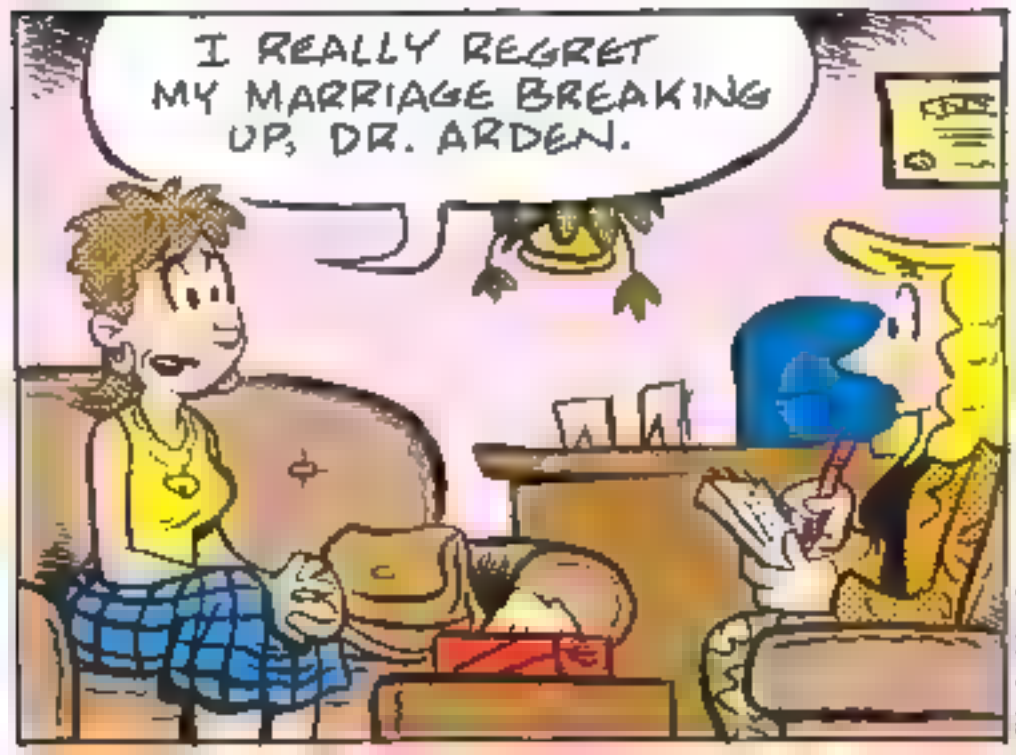

I'VE NEVER TALKED TO MY MOM AS MUCH AS YOU TALK TO YOURS, ABBY.
WELL, YOU SHOULD AT LEAST CALL HER SOME-TIME!
I CALL HER PLENTY!
WHEN DID YOU DO IT LAST?
IT HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG. BUT IF IT'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY, I'LL CALL HER RIGHT NOW!
10-14
DO WE STILL HAVE HER PHONE NUMBER?

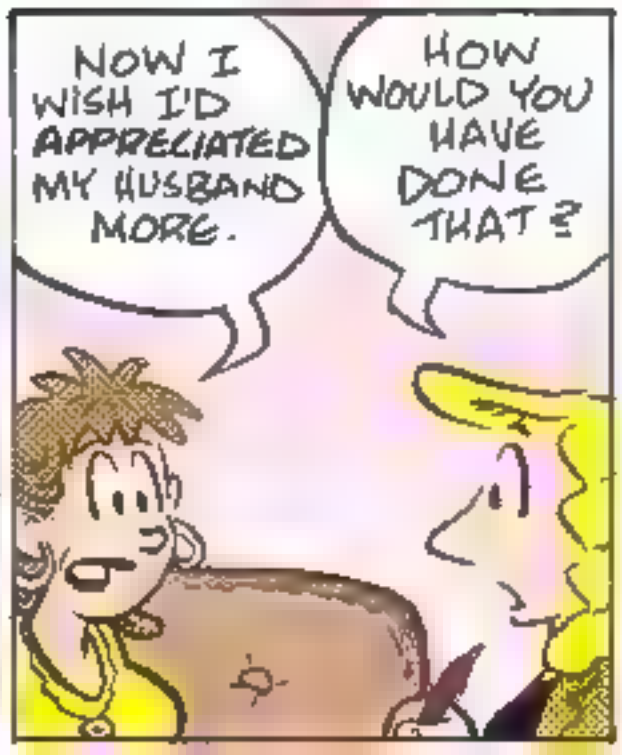

HEY, ABBY-- I JUST CALLED MY MOM!
GOOD FOR YOU, LEN! HOW WAS IT?
I WAS NERVOUS AT FIRST-- IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME. BUT IT WAS REALLY NICE TO HEAR HER VOICE!
WHAT DID SHE HAVE TO SAY?
ACTUALLY, SHE WASN'T THERE. I LEFT A MESSAGE ON HER MACHINE.
WELL-- THAT'S PROGRESS...
10-15


THE OWNER JUST WANTS YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS.
IT'S BEEN PRETTY SLOW, HUH?
THALBEN

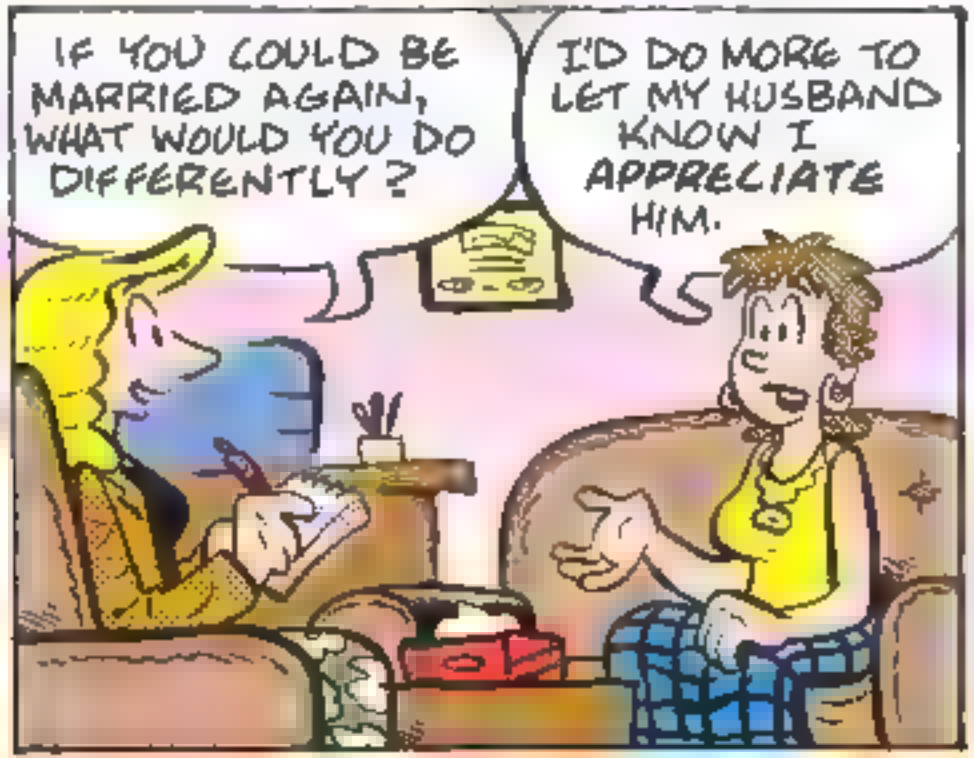

JOE'S CARB HOUSE
WELL, WE EXPECT THINGS TO IMPROVE ONCE WE FIX THE MISTAKE IN THE NEW SIGN!
FRESH SEAFO


GREINER'S PUMPKIN FARM
CORN MAZE
PUMPKINS $20 each
PUMPKINS $1.99/lb


I REALLY REGRET MY MARRIAGE BREAKING UP, DR. ARDEN.


NOW I WISH I'D APPRECIATED MY HUSBAND MORE.
HOW WOULD YOU HAVE DONE THAT?

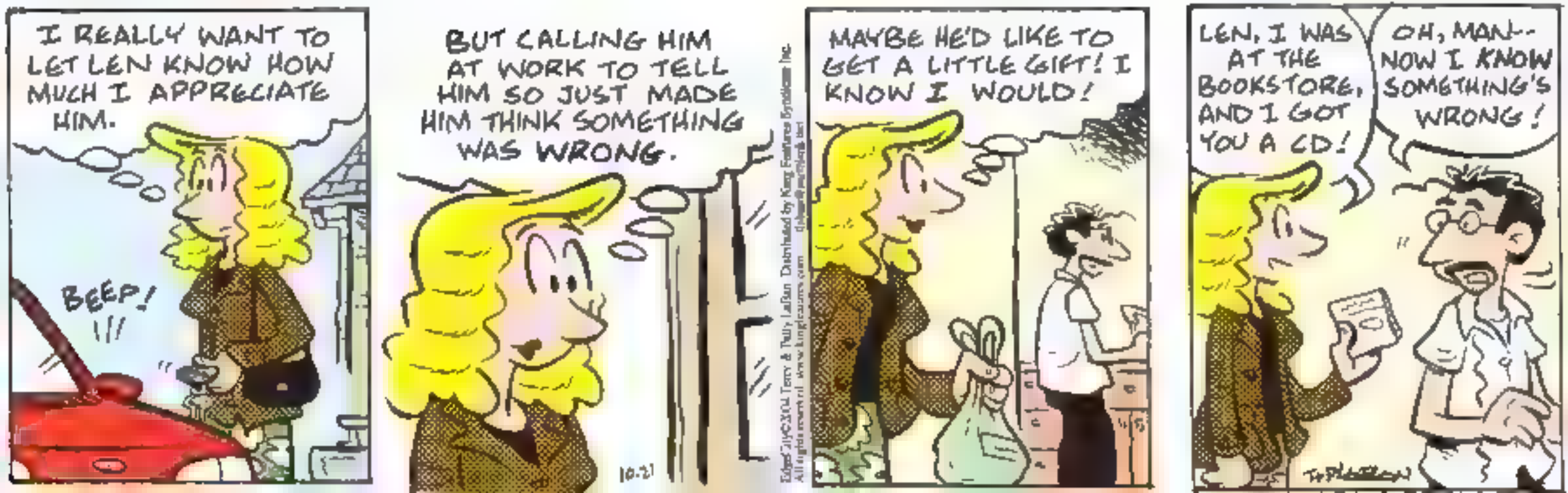
FOR STARTERS, I WOULDN'T HAVE RUN OFF WITH HIS BEST FRIEND.
OK-- GOOD!
10.18

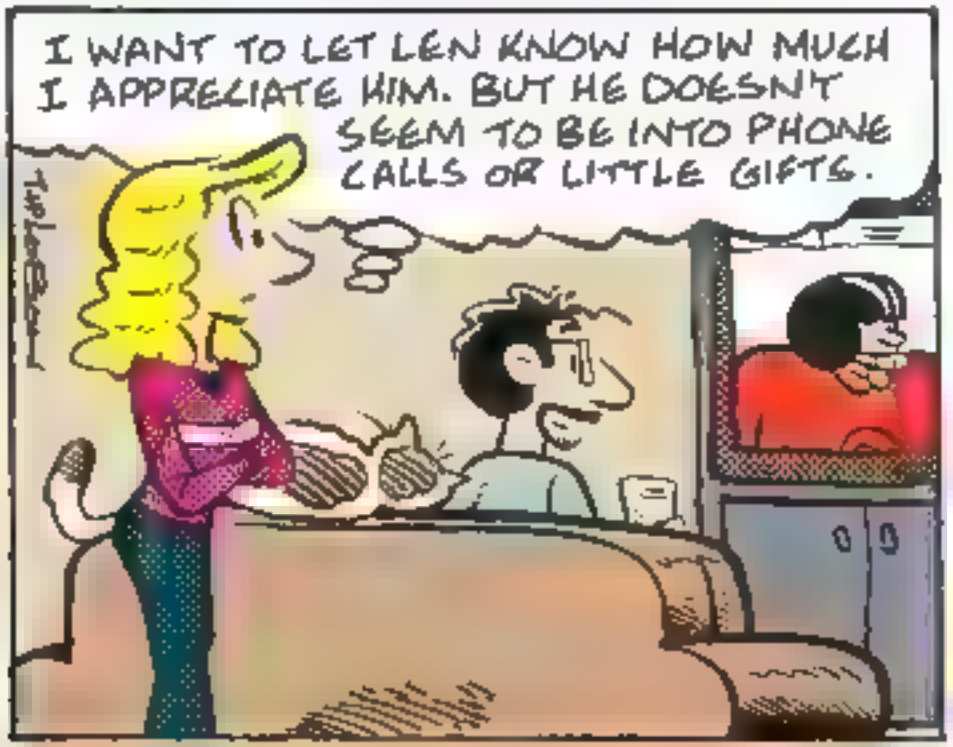

IF YOU COULD BE MARRIED AGAIN, WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY?
I'D DO MORE TO LET MY HUSBAND KNOW I APPRECIATE HIM.

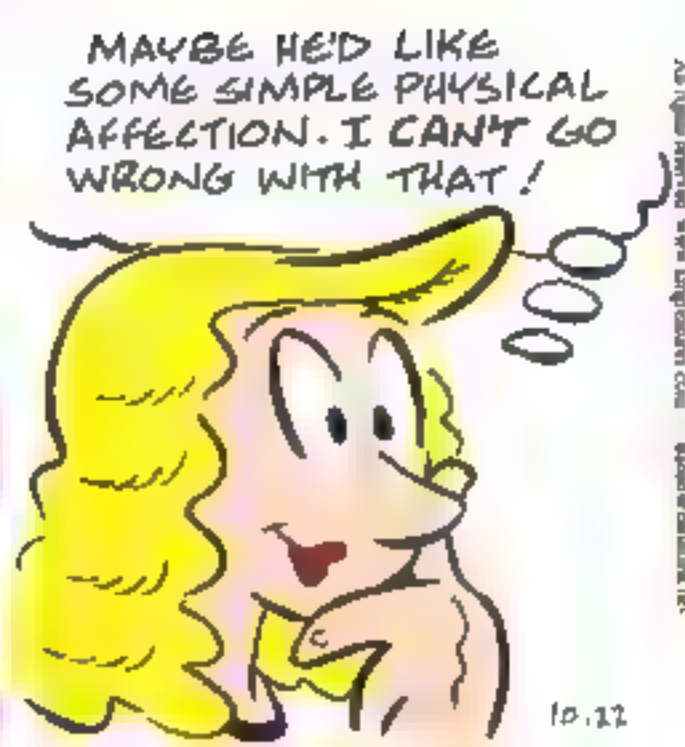
I TRIED TOWARDS THE END. BUT AT THAT POINT, IT WAS TOO LATE.
WHAT DID YOU TRY?

WELL, WHEN I THREW A PLATE AT HIM, I ALWAYS MADE SURE I MISSED.
WAY TOO LATE, I'D SAY.
TURKEY
10-19

I WONDER IF I SHOW MY HUSBAND ENOUGH HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE HIM?
MAYBE I'LL CALL HIM UP JUST TO SAY SO! I KNOW THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE!
LEN, IT'S ABBY! I JUST WANT TO LET YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE YOU!
HUH?!
ABBY, WHAT'S WRONG? IF SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED, JUST TELL ME!
!
10.20


I REALLY WANT TO LET LEN KNOW HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE HIM.
BEEP!
BUT CALLING HIM AT WORK TO TELL HIM SO JUST MADE HIM THINK SOMETHING WAS WRONG.
10-21
MAYBE HE'D LIKE TO GET A LITTLE GIFT! I KNOW I WOULD!
LEN, I WAS AT THE BOOKSTORE, AND I GOT YOU A CD!
OH, MAN-- NOW I KNOW SOMETHING'S WRONG!





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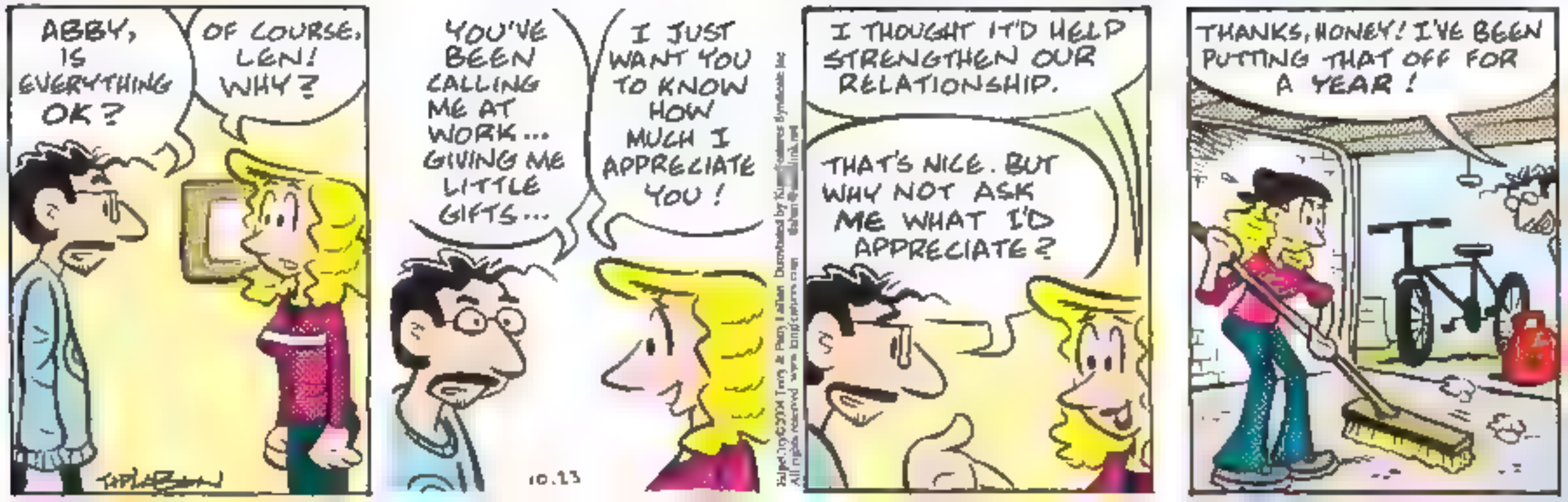
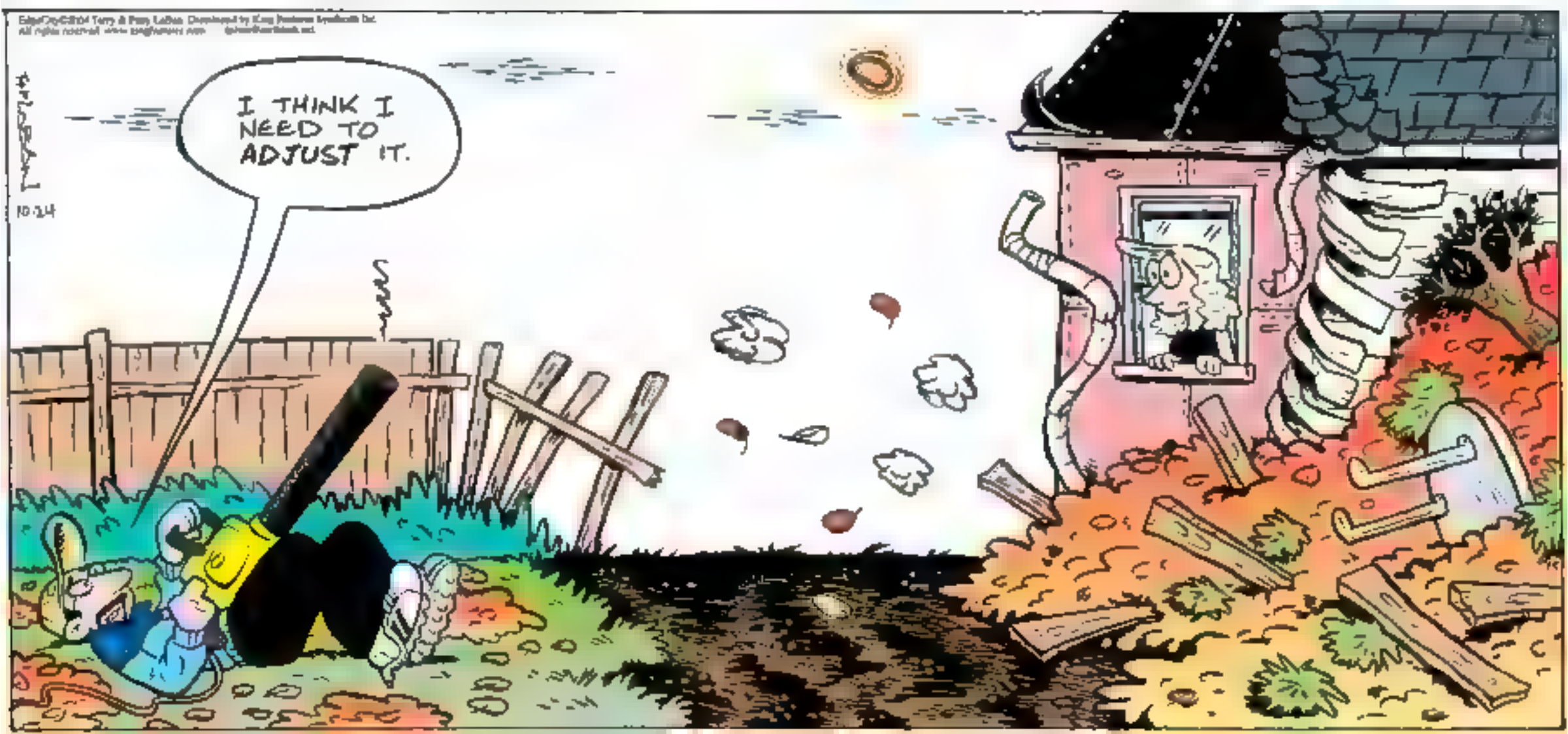
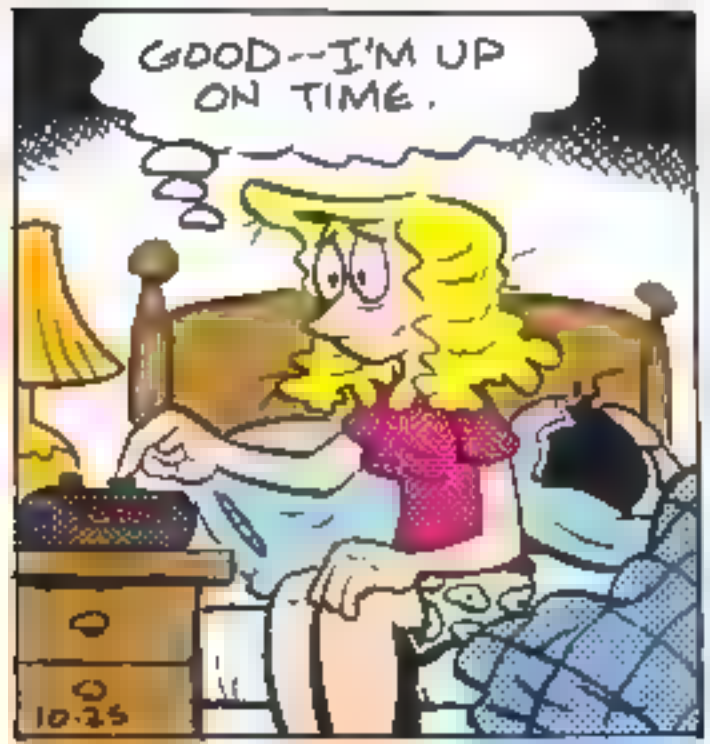

ABBY, IS EVERYTHING OK?
OF COURSE, LEN! WHY?
YOU'VE BEEN CALLING ME AT WORK... GIVING ME LITTLE GIFTS...
I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE YOU!
10.23
I THOUGHT IT'D HELP STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONSHIP.
THAT'S NICE. BUT WHY NOT ASK ME WHAT I'D APPRECIATE?
THANKS, HONEY! I'VE BEEN PUTTING THAT OFF FOR A YEAR!


I THINK I NEED TO ADJUST IT.



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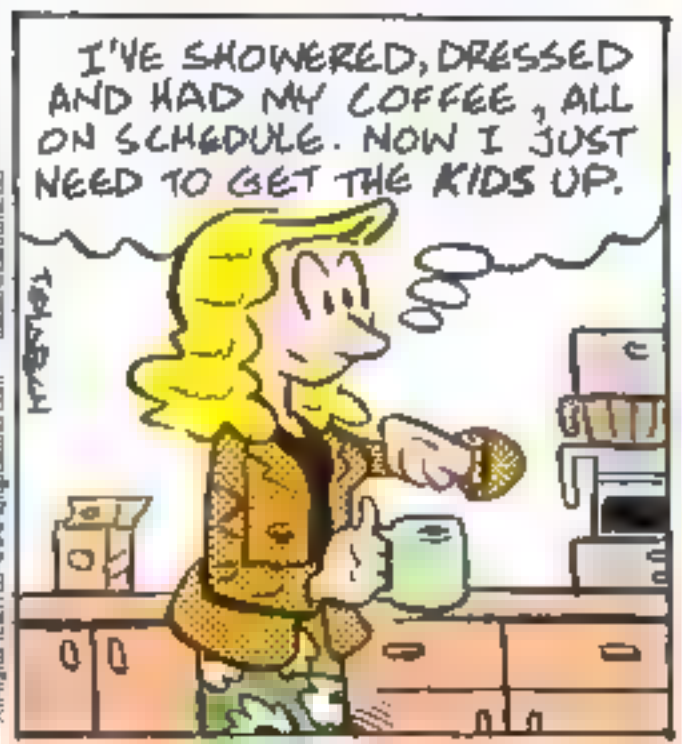
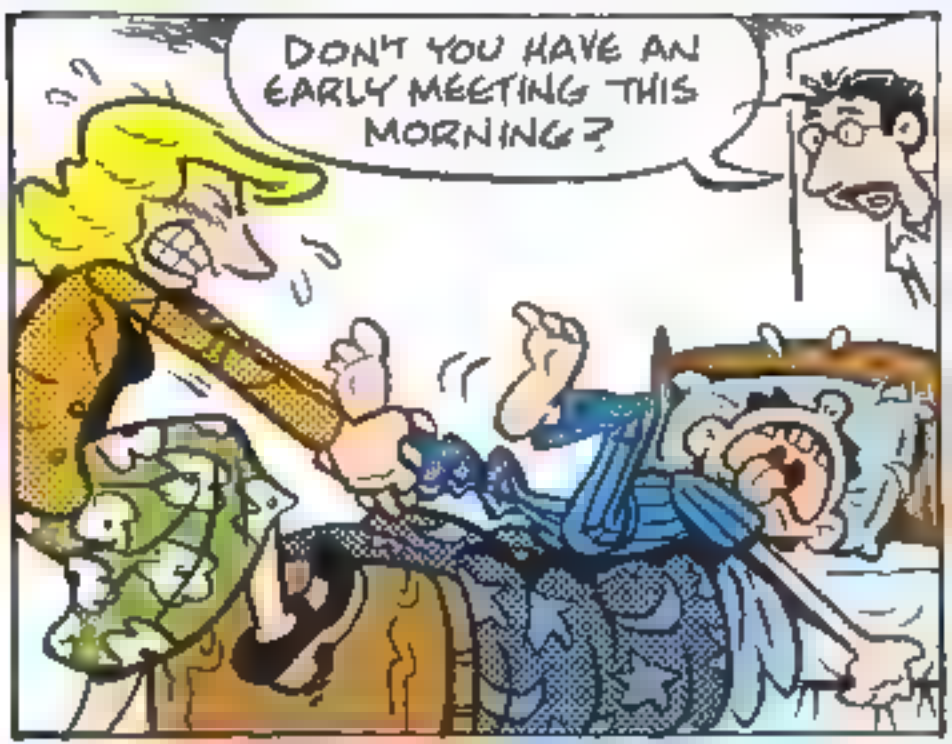
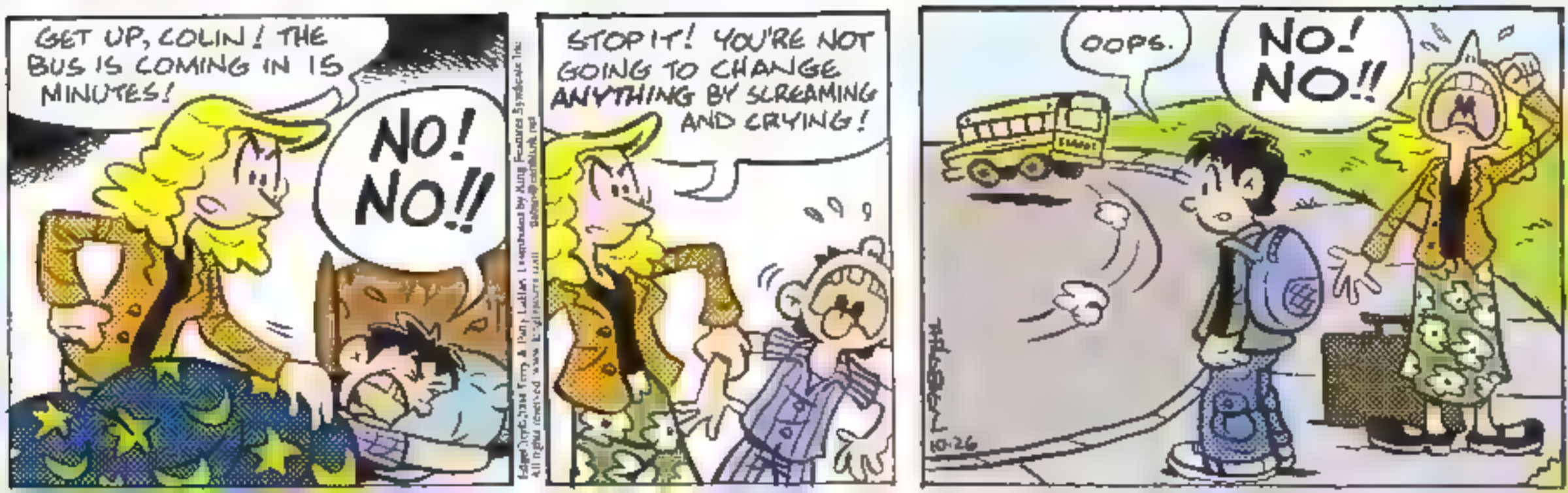
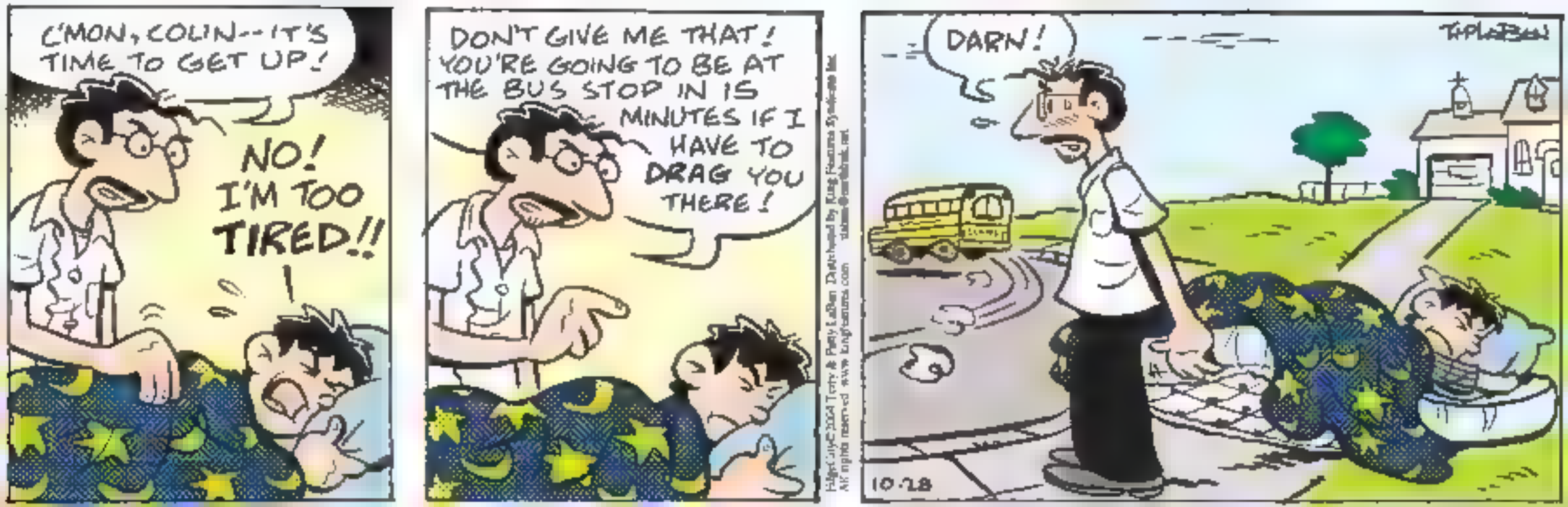
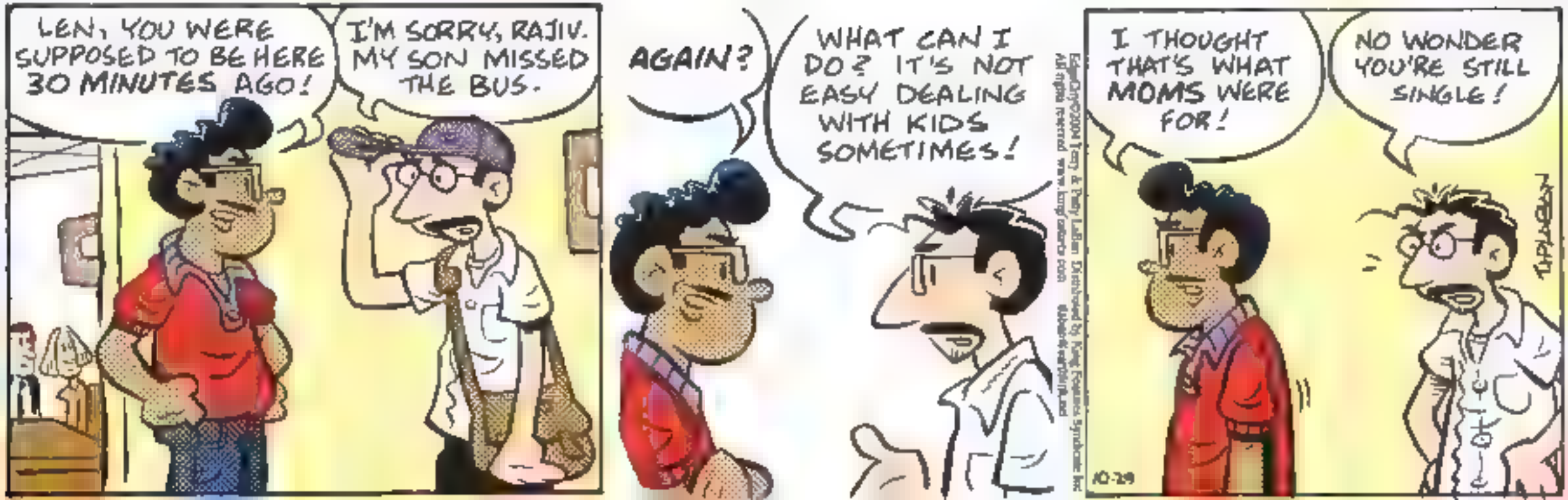





GET UP, COLIN! THE BUS IS COMING IN 15 MINUTES!
NO! NO!!
STOP IT! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CHANGE ANYTHING BY SCREAMING AND CRYING!
OOPS.
NO! NO!!
10-26

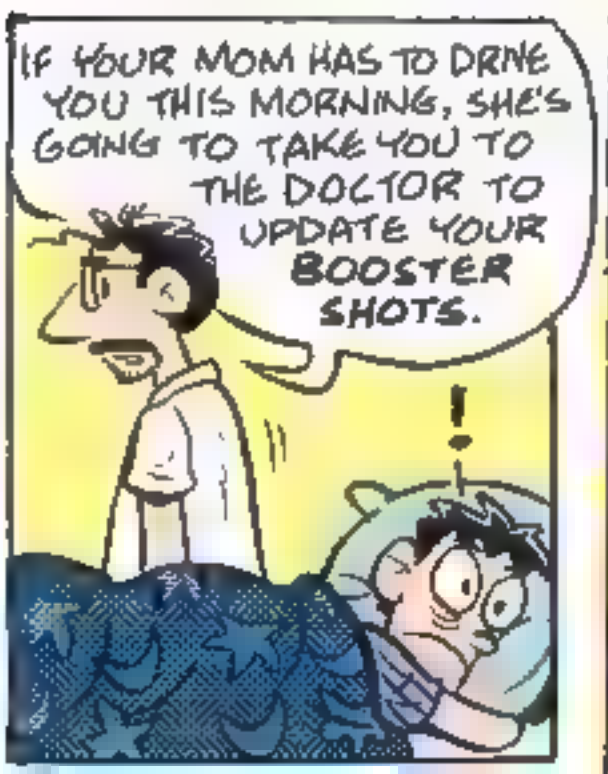
SCHOOL
LEN, I HAD TO DRIVE COLIN TO SCHOOL THIS MORNING BECAUSE HE MISSED THE BUS!
NOW I'M GOING TO HAVE TO RESCHEDULE ALL MY CLIENTS! I WON'T GET HOME TILL 10:00 TONIGHT!
10.27
I'M SORRY, ABBY. BUT WHAT CAN I DO?
TOMORROW, YOU GET HIM UP!


C'MON, COLIN--IT'S TIME TO GET UP!
NO! I'M TOO TIRED!!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT! YOU'RE GOING TO BE AT THE BUS STOP IN 15 MINUTES IF I HAVE TO DRAG YOU THERE!
DARN!
10-28


LEN, YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE HERE 30 MINUTES AGO!
I'M SORRY, RAJIV. MY SON MISSED THE BUS.
AGAIN?
WHAT CAN I DO? IT'S NOT EASY DEALING WITH KIDS SOMETIMES!
I THOUGHT THAT'S WHAT MOMS WERE FOR!
NO WONDER YOU'RE STILL SINGLE!
10-29

TIME TO GET UP, COLIN!
NO! I'M TOO TIRED!

FINE-- SLEEP IN AND MISS THE BUS AGAIN.


IF YOUR MOM HAS TO DRIVE YOU THIS MORNING, SHE'S GOING TO TAKE YOU TO THE DOCTOR TO UPDATE YOUR BOOSTER SHOTS.
!

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT'LL WORK?
HOPEFULLY, TILL WE CAN COME UP WITH ANOTHER PLAN.
10-30

THANKS FOR TAKING THE KIDS TRICK-OR-TREATING, LEN.

IT WAS FUN. NOW I'M GOING BACK OUTSIDE.

TRICK OR TREAT

TRICK OR

WHAT FOR?

THIS IS WHEN THE TEENS COME OUT TO EGG AND TOILET-PAPER HOUSES. I DON'T WANT THEM TO HIT OURS.

BE CAREFUL!

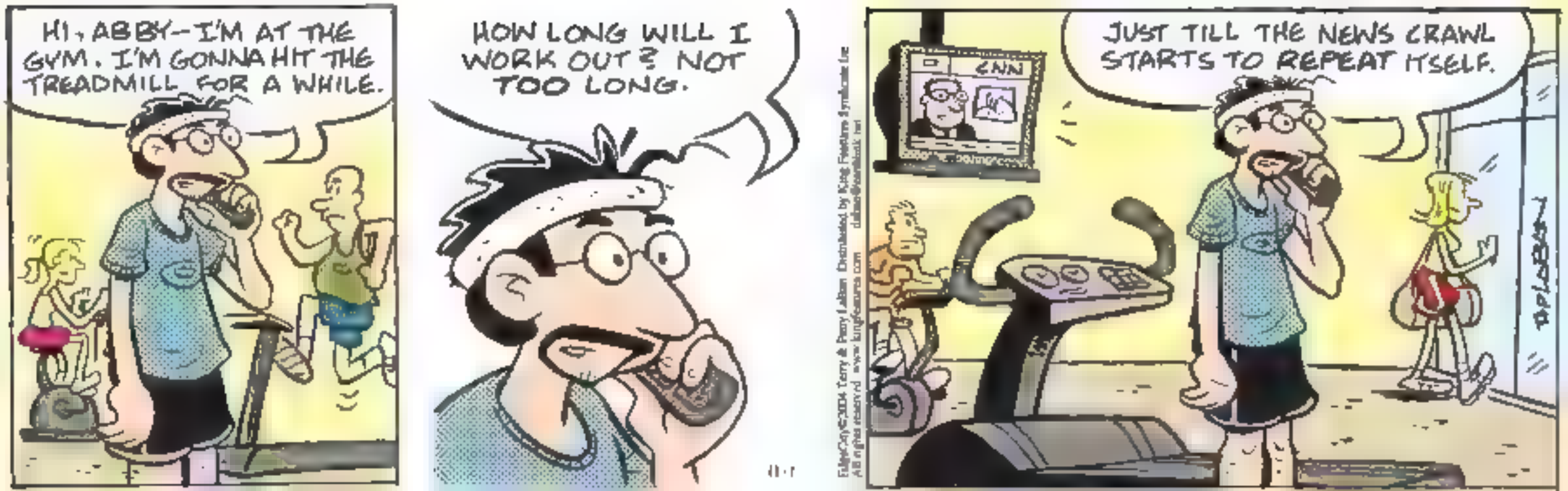
DON'T WORRY—ONCE THEY SEE SOMEONE'S GUARDING THE PLACE, I'M SURE THEY'LL LEAVE IT ALONE.

HEY, YOU KIDS!

SPLAT! SPLAT! SPLAT! SPLAT! SPLAT!

THE HOUSE IS FINE.

—!


HI, ABBY—I'M AT THE GYM. I'M GONNA HIT THE TREADMILL FOR A WHILE.
HOW LONG WILL I WORK OUT? NOT TOO LONG.
CNN
JUST TILL THE NEWS CRAWL STARTS TO REPEAT ITSELF.
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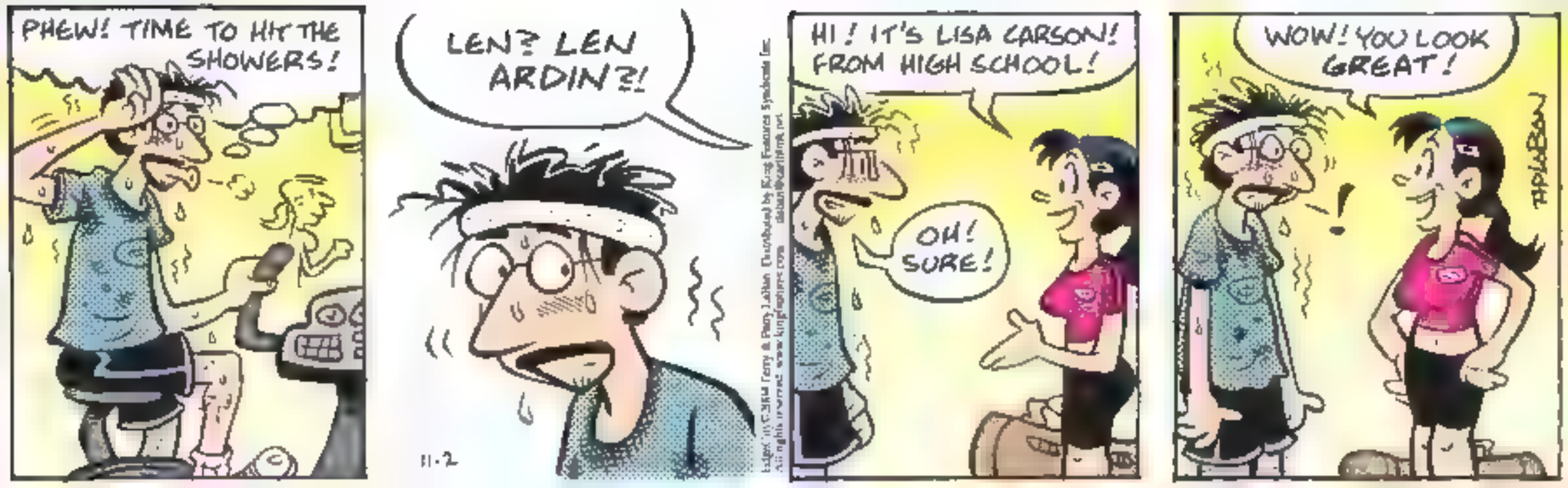
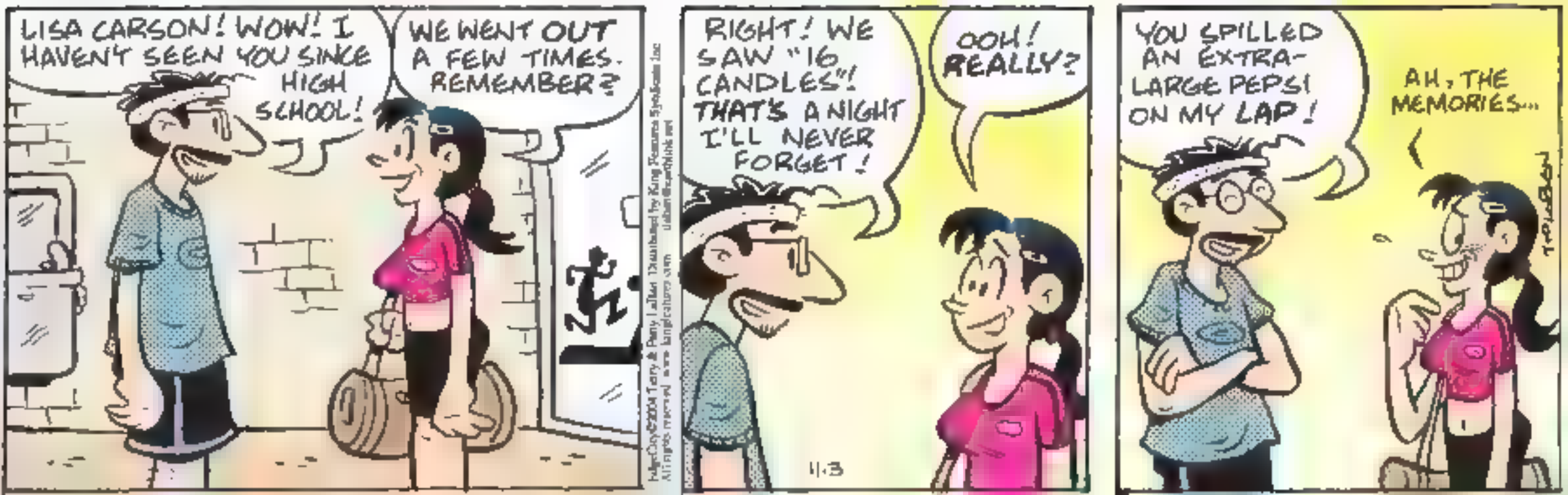
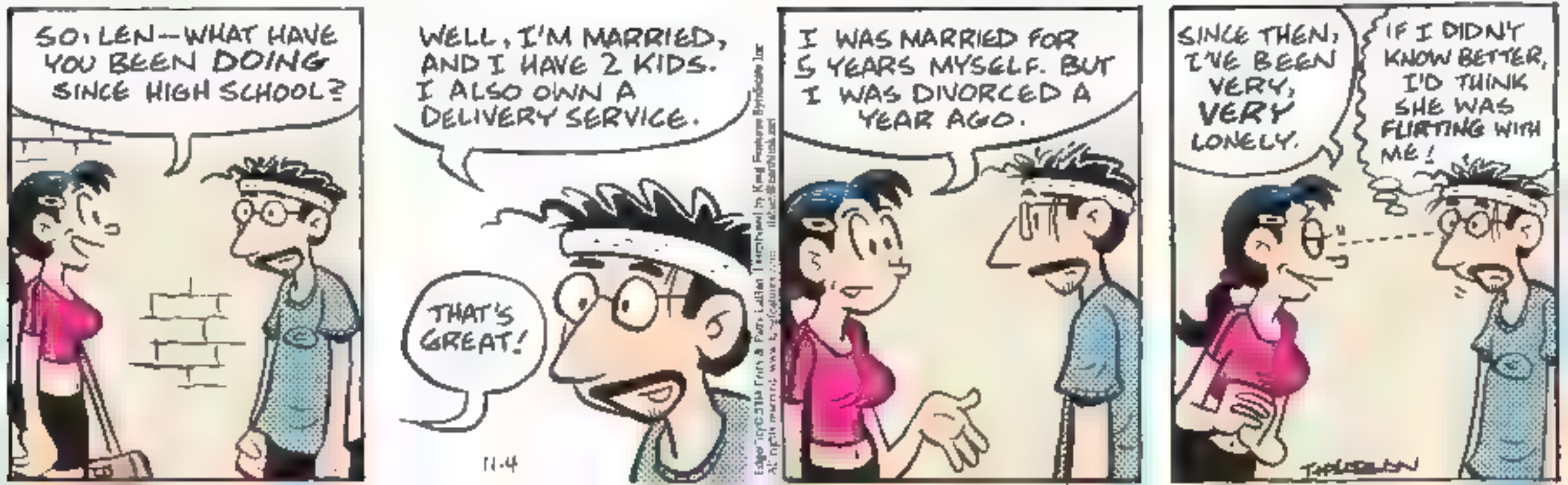

PHEW! TIME TO HIT THE SHOWERS!
LEN? LEN ARDIN?!
11-2
HI! IT'S LISA CARSON! FROM HIGH SCHOOL!
OH! SURE!
WOW! YOU LOOK GREAT!
APLABAN


LISA CARSON! WOW! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE HIGH SCHOOL!
WE WENT OUT A FEW TIMES. REMEMBER?
RIGHT! WE SAW "16 CANDLES"! THAT'S A NIGHT I'LL NEVER FORGET!
OOH! REALLY?
YOU SPILLED AN EXTRA-LARGE PEPSI ON MY LAP!
AH, THE MEMORIES...


SO, LEN—WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING SINCE HIGH SCHOOL?
WELL, I'M MARRIED, AND I HAVE 2 KIDS. I ALSO OWN A DELIVERY SERVICE.
THAT'S GREAT!
11-4
I WAS MARRIED FOR 5 YEARS MYSELF. BUT I WAS DIVORCED A YEAR AGO.
SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN VERY, VERY LONELY.
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D THINK SHE WAS FLIRTING WITH ME!

IT'S SO NICE TO RUN INTO YOU AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, LEN. WANNA GO HAVE A DRINK?
UM...
WHOAH! I'M GETTING A DEFINITE VIBE HERE!
11-5
THANKS, BUT I SHOULD REALLY GET HOME FOR DINNER.
WE CAN JUST GET SOMETHING TO EAT IF YOU WANT!
WHY NOT?
GREAT! I'LL CHANGE AND MEET YOU OUTSIDE!

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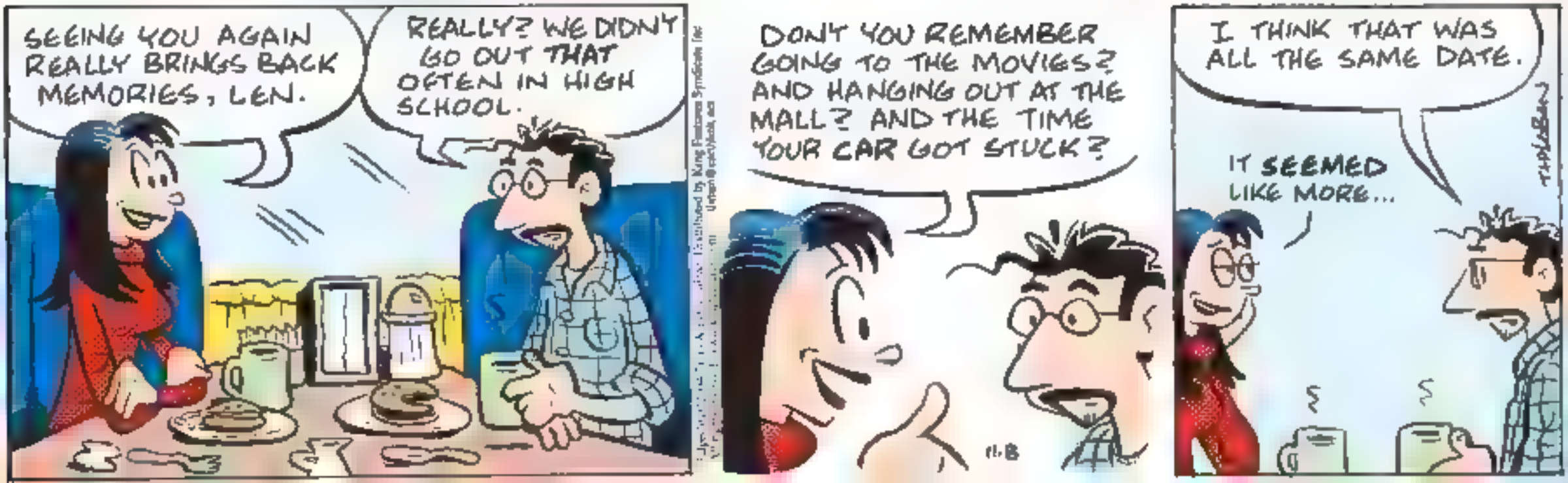
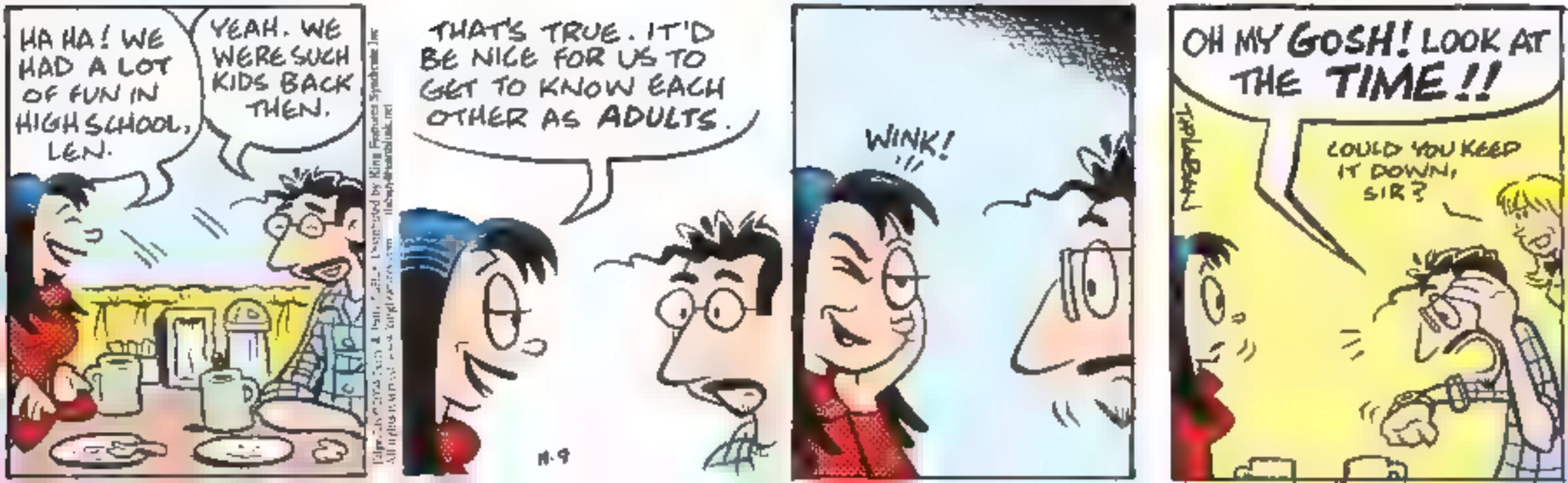
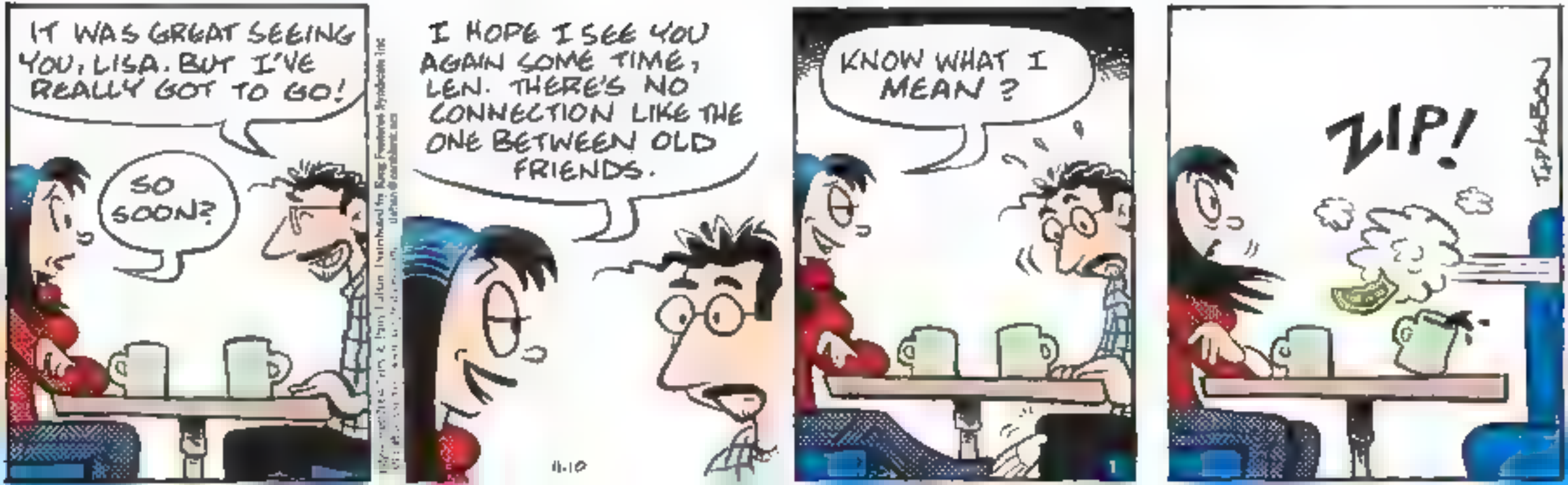
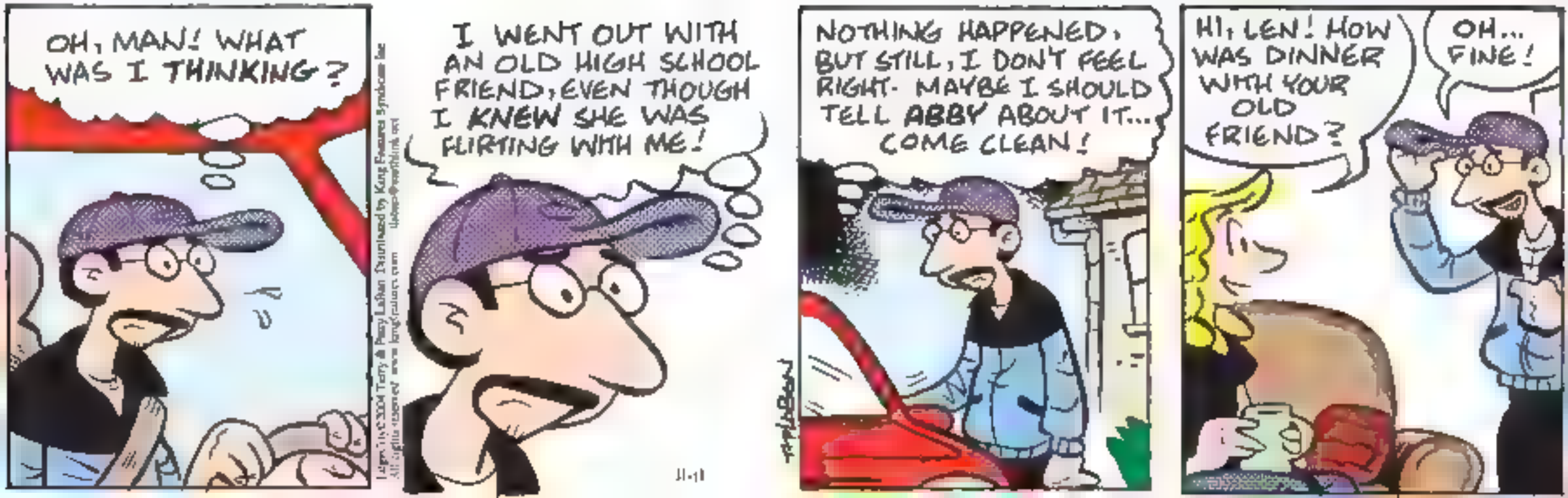
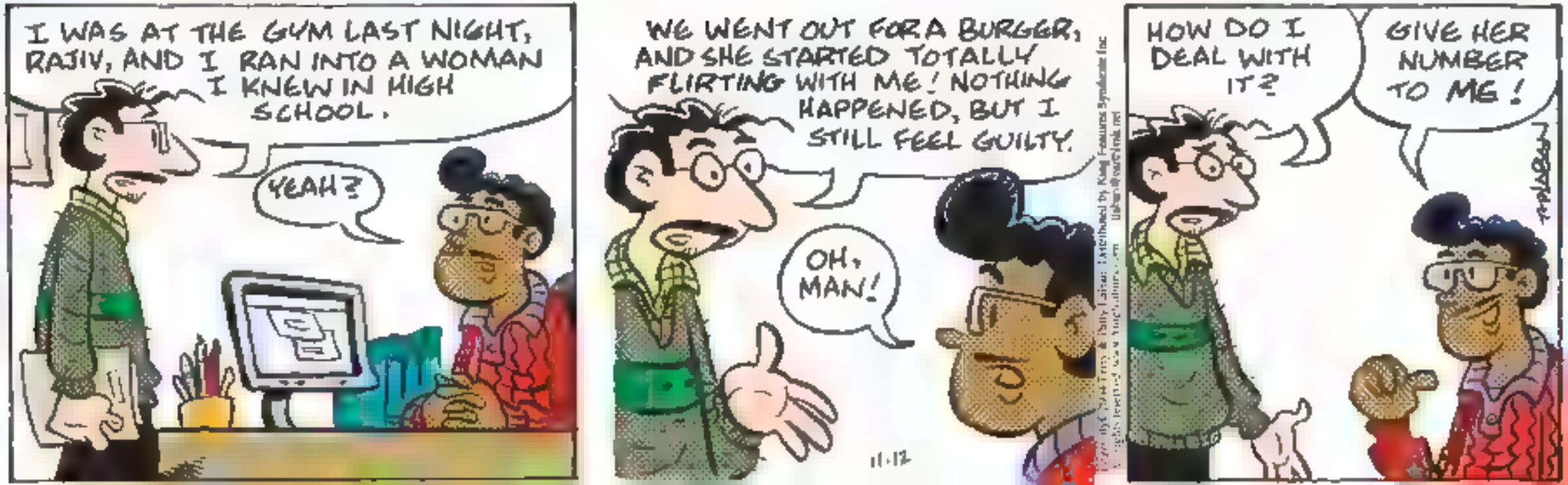
HELLO?
HI, LEN...IT'S ABBY. WE WON'T HAVE TIME TO EAT AT HOME TONIGHT.
FAST FOOD AGAIN, HUH?
THE KIDS AND I ARE JUST GRABBING SOME SUPPER ON THE WAY TO SOCCER PRACTICE.
IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S BEEN HARD LATELY FOR US TO HAVE A DECENT MEAL AROUND THE DINNER TABLE.
I KNOW...
...THOUGH RIGHT NOW, I'D SETTLE FOR EATING AT ANY KIND OF TABLE!
CARLY SPILLED!
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
THAVABON

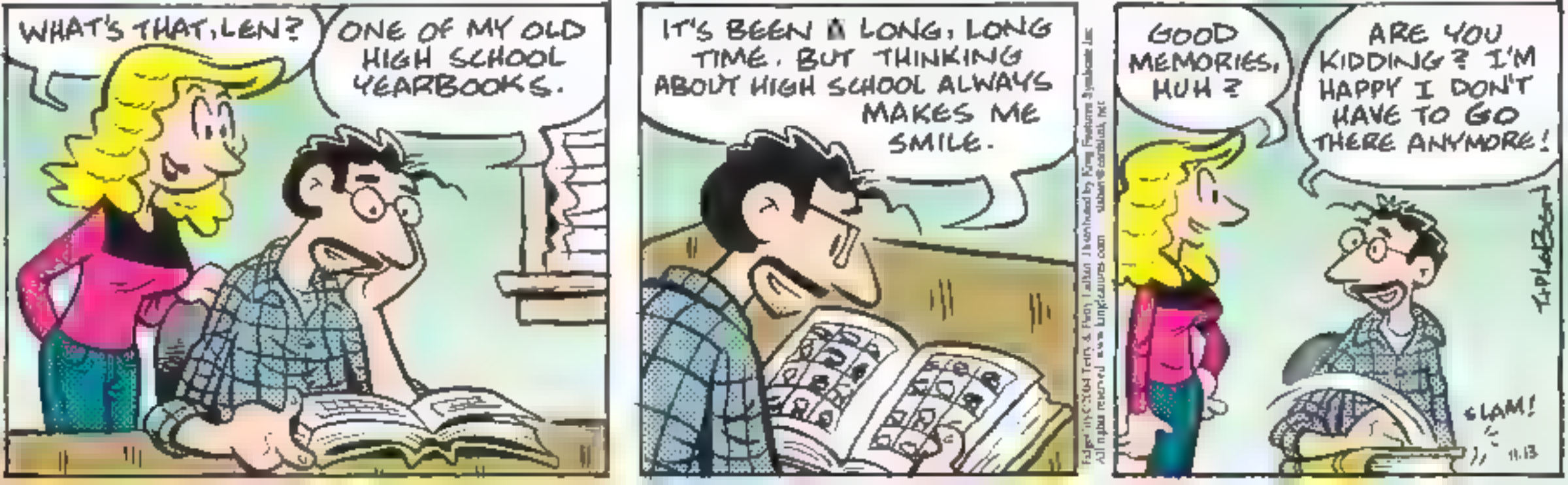

SEEING YOU AGAIN REALLY BRINGS BACK MEMORIES, LEN.
REALLY? WE DIDN'T GO OUT THAT OFTEN IN HIGH SCHOOL.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER GOING TO THE MOVIES? AND HANGING OUT AT THE MALL? AND THE TIME YOUR CAR GOT STUCK?
I THINK THAT WAS ALL THE SAME DATE.
IT SEEMED LIKE MORE...


HA HA! WE HAD A LOT OF FUN IN HIGH SCHOOL, LEN.
YEAH. WE WERE SUCH KIDS BACK THEN.
THAT'S TRUE. IT'D BE NICE FOR US TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER AS ADULTS.
WINK!
OH MY GOSH! LOOK AT THE TIME!!
COULD YOU KEEP IT DOWN, SIR?


IT WAS GREAT SEEING YOU, LISA. BUT I'VE REALLY GOT TO GO!
SO SOON?
I HOPE I SEE YOU AGAIN SOME TIME, LEN. THERE'S NO CONNECTION LIKE THE ONE BETWEEN OLD FRIENDS.
KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
ZIP!

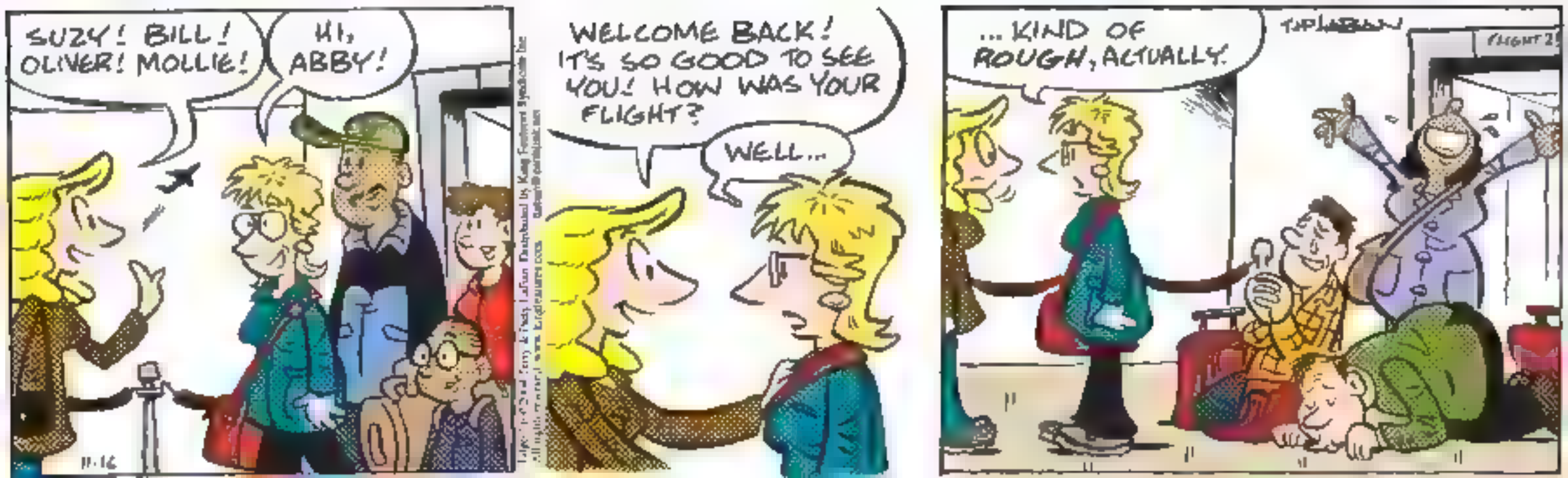

OH, MAN! WHAT WAS I THINKING?
I WENT OUT WITH AN OLD HIGH SCHOOL FRIEND, EVEN THOUGH I KNEW SHE WAS FLIRTING WITH ME!
NOTHING HAPPENED, BUT STILL, I DON'T FEEL RIGHT. MAYBE I SHOULD TELL ABBY ABOUT IT... COME CLEAN!
HI, LEN! HOW WAS DINNER WITH YOUR OLD FRIEND?
OH... FINE!

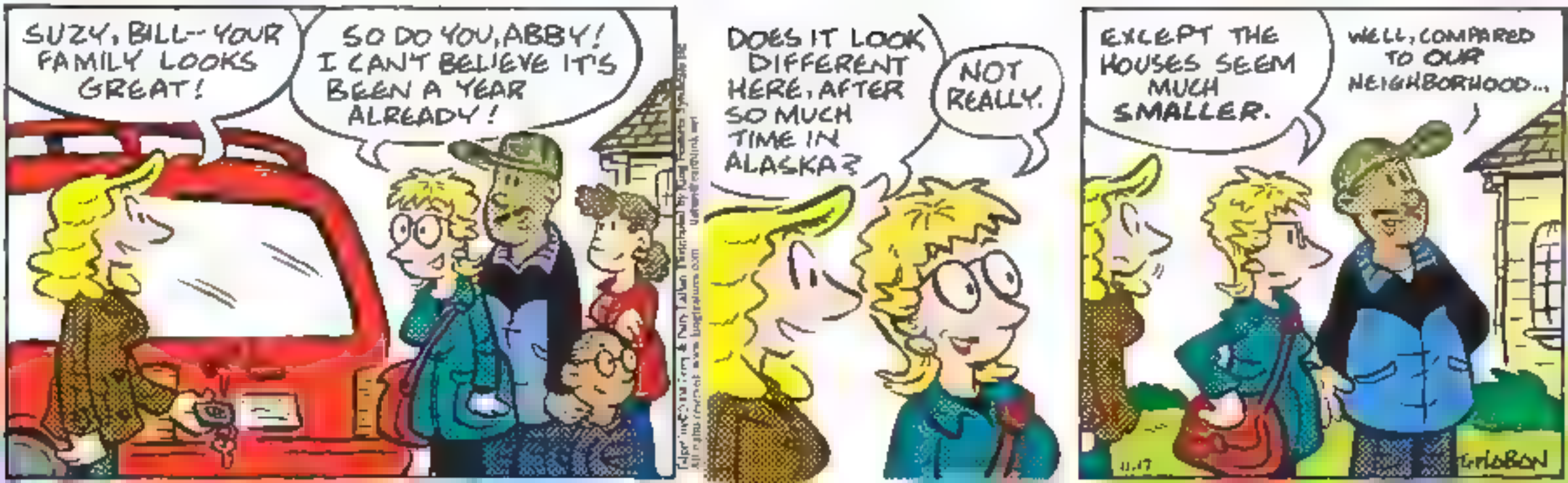

I WAS AT THE GYM LAST NIGHT, RAJIV, AND I RAN INTO A WOMAN I KNEW IN HIGH SCHOOL.
YEAH?
WE WENT OUT FOR A BURGER, AND SHE STARTED TOTALLY FLIRTING WITH ME! NOTHING HAPPENED, BUT I STILL FEEL GUILTY.
OH, MAN!
11-12
HOW DO I DEAL WITH IT?
GIVE HER NUMBER TO ME!

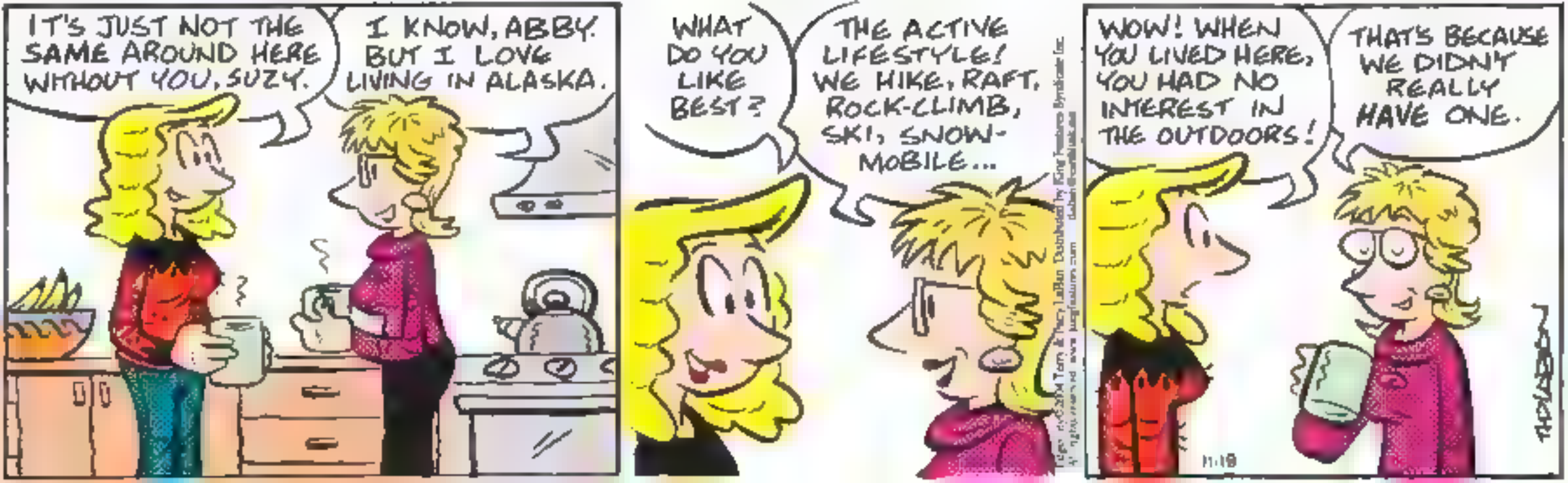

WHAT'S THAT, LEN?
ONE OF MY OLD HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOKS.
IT'S BEEN A LONG, LONG TIME. BUT THINKING ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL ALWAYS MAKES ME SMILE.
GOOD MEMORIES, HUH?
ARE YOU KIDDING? I'M HAPPY I DON'T HAVE TO GO THERE ANYMORE!
SLAM!
11.13

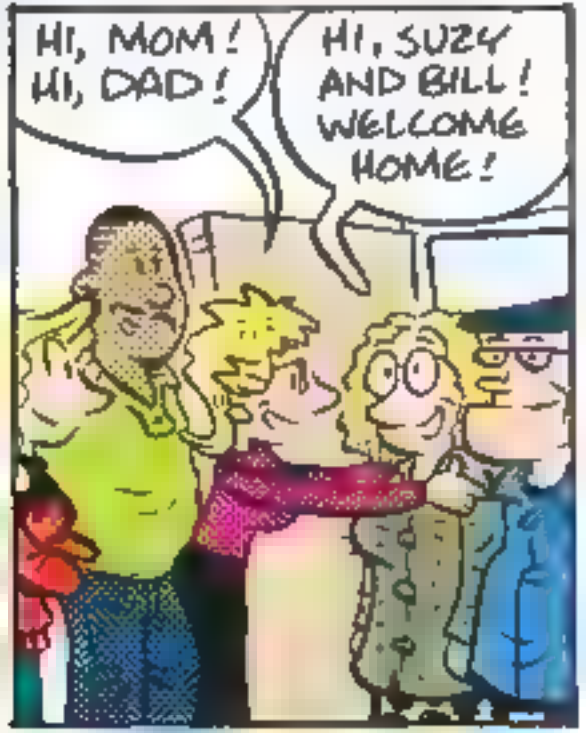
WE NEED TO ORDER SCHOOL PICTURES AGAIN.
OH YEAH?
WE USUALLY GET THE STANDARD PACKAGE. BUT THIS TIME, I'M TEMPTED TO SPEND A LITTLE MORE.
YOU CAN GET A LOT MORE PRINTS, PLUS MUGS, T-SHIRTS AND A POSTER!
WHAT IF THE PICTURES AREN'T GOOD?
THEY'VE BEEN PERFECTLY FINE EVERY YEAR SO FAR.
I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT THIS.

I'M EXCITED ABOUT MY SISTER AND HER FAMILY COMING TOMORROW.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE WE SAW THEM LAST.
I KNOW! SINCE THEY MOVED TO ALASKA, I'VE MISSED THEM SO MUCH!
NOBODY TAKES THE PLACE OF MY SISTER! NOBODY UNDERSTANDS ME LIKE MY SISTER!
YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE YOU GUYS ALWAYS GET ALONG!
NOBODY PUSHES MY BUTTONS LIKE MY SISTER!
11.15


SUZY! BILL! OLIVER! MOLLIE!
HI, ABBY!
11-16
WELCOME BACK! IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU! HOW WAS YOUR FLIGHT?
WELL...
... KIND OF ROUGH, ACTUALLY.


SUZY, BILL-- YOUR FAMILY LOOKS GREAT!
SO DO YOU, ABBY! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S BEEN A YEAR ALREADY!
DOES IT LOOK DIFFERENT HERE, AFTER SO MUCH TIME IN ALASKA?
NOT REALLY.
EXCEPT THE HOUSES SEEM MUCH SMALLER.
WELL, COMPARED TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD...


IT'S JUST NOT THE SAME AROUND HERE WITHOUT YOU, SUZY.
I KNOW, ABBY. BUT I LOVE LIVING IN ALASKA.
WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST?
THE ACTIVE LIFESTYLE! WE HIKE, RAFT, ROCK-CLIMB, SKI, SNOW-MOBILE...
WOW! WHEN YOU LIVED HERE, YOU HAD NO INTEREST IN THE OUTDOORS!
THAT'S BECAUSE WE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ONE.

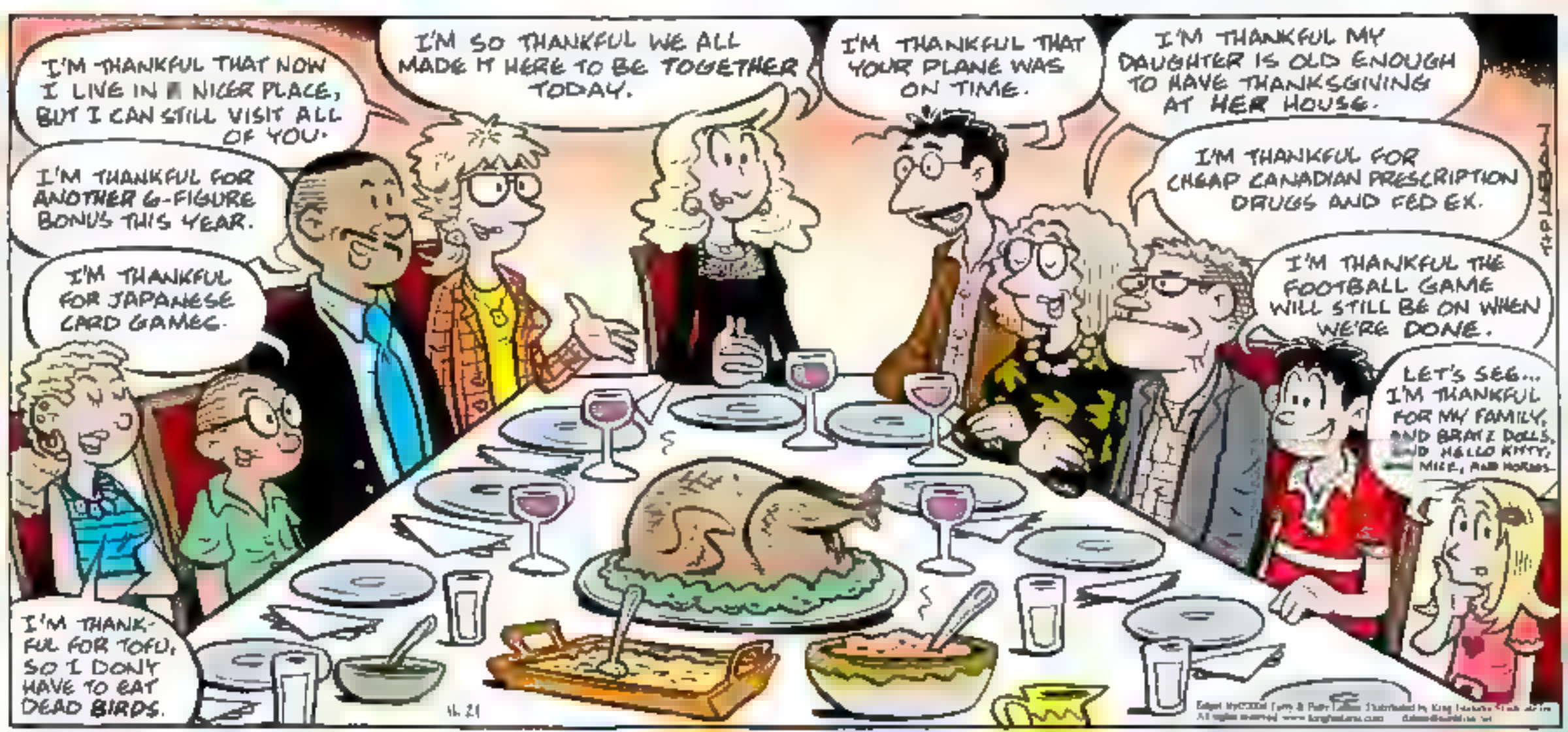

HI, MOM! HI, DAD!
HI, SUZY AND BILL! WELCOME HOME!

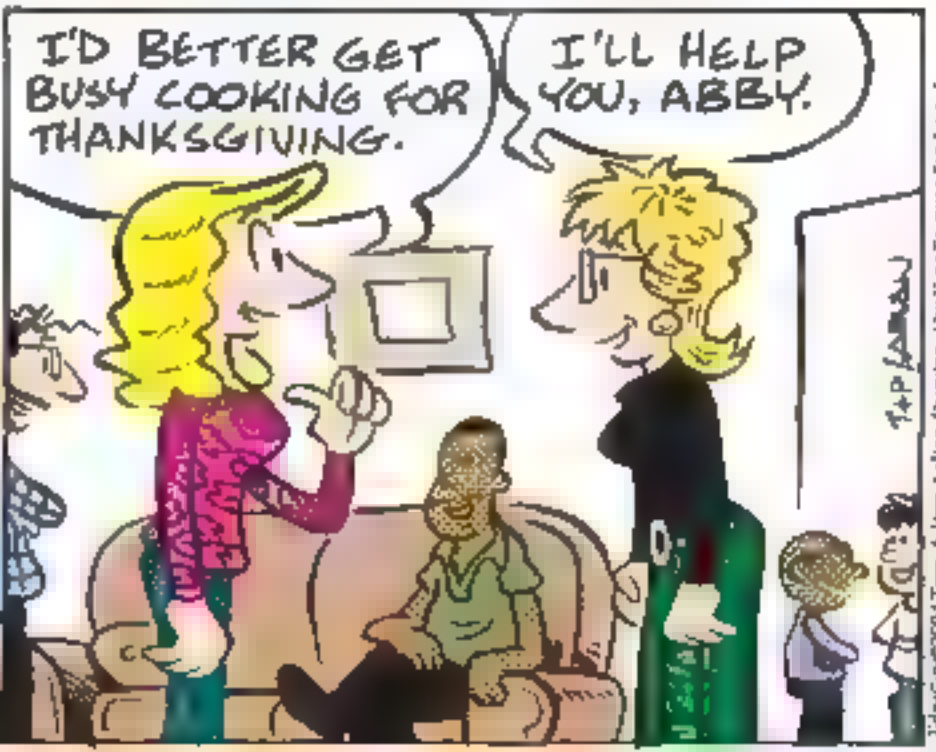
DIDN'T YOU JUST SEE EACH OTHER?
YES! WE HAD A WONDERFUL TIME IN ANCHORAGE A FEW MONTHS AGO.

I MISS SUZY LIVING HERE, BUT I DO LIKE BEING ABLE TO VISIT HER IN ALASKA.

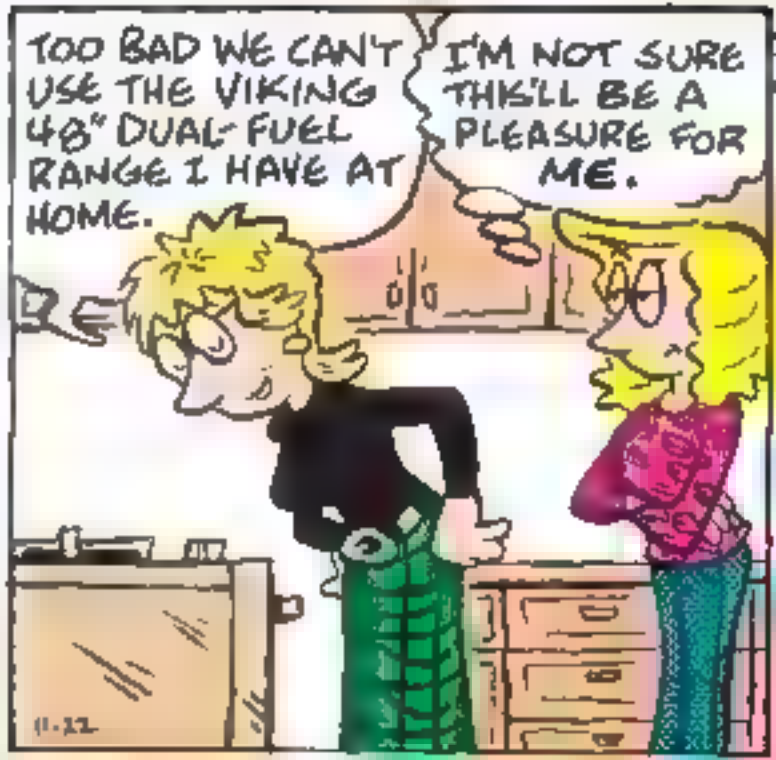
IT'S LIKE HAVING ONE DAUGHTER FOR EVERYDAY AND ANOTHER FOR FUN!

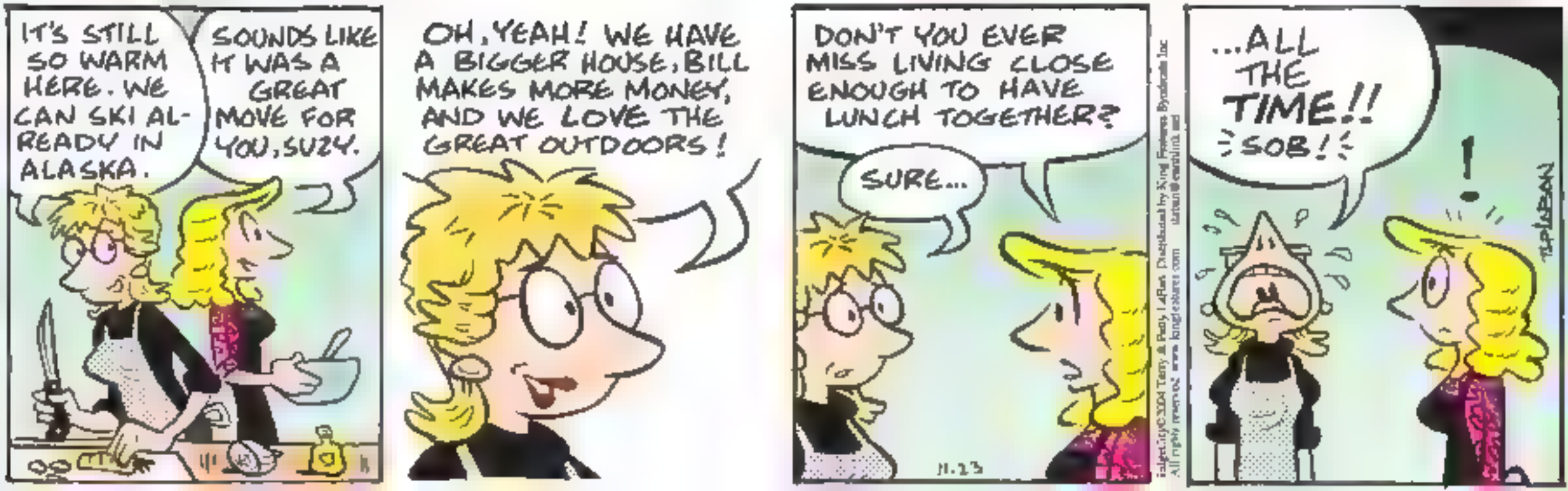
IT SOUNDS LIKE MY SISTER AND HER FAMILY REALLY LIKE LIVING IN ALASKA.
ALL SHE TALKS ABOUT IS HER BIG HOUSE, HER HUSBAND'S GREAT JOB, AND HOW SHE SKIS AND SNOWMOBILES ALL THE TIME.
11.20
APPLEBAUM
THAT'S GOOD. YOU'RE HAPPY FOR HER, AREN'T YOU?
OF COURSE!
BUT I'D BE HAPPIER IF SHE SAID SHE REALLY MISSED ME.
I'LL BET SHE DOES ON THE DAYS SHE CAN'T SNOWMOBILE.

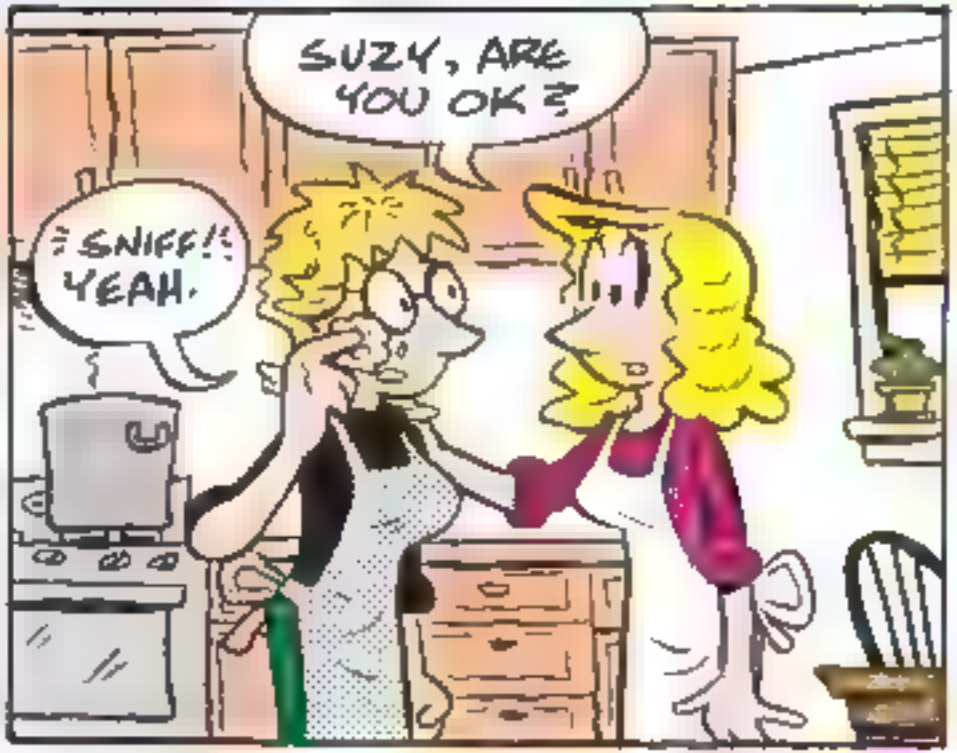

I'M THANKFUL THAT NOW I LIVE IN A NICER PLACE, BUT I CAN STILL VISIT ALL OF YOU.
I'M SO THANKFUL WE ALL MADE IT HERE TO BE TOGETHER TODAY.
I'M THANKFUL THAT YOUR PLANE WAS ON TIME.
I'M THANKFUL MY DAUGHTER IS OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE THANKSGIVING AT HER HOUSE.
I'M THANKFUL FOR ANOTHER 6-FIGURE BONUS THIS YEAR.
I'M THANKFUL FOR CHEAP CANADIAN PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND FED EX.
I'M THANKFUL FOR JAPANESE CARD GAMES.
I'M THANKFUL THE FOOTBALL GAME WILL STILL BE ON WHEN WE'RE DONE.
LET'S SEE... I'M THANKFUL FOR MY FAMILY, AND BRATZ DOLLS, AND HELLO KITTY, MILK, AND HORSES.
I'M THANKFUL FOR TOFU, SO I DONT HAVE TO EAT DEAD BIRDS.

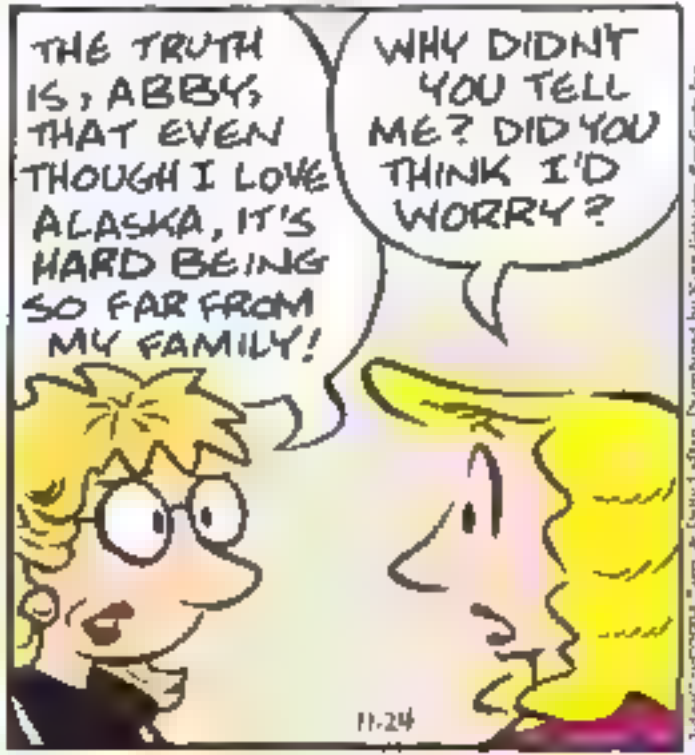

I'D BETTER GET BUSY COOKING FOR THANKSGIVING.
I'LL HELP YOU, ABBY.

THAT'S OK, SUZY! YOU'RE OUR GUEST-- JUST RELAX!
WE'RE SISTERS! IT'S MY PLEASURE!


TOO BAD WE CAN'T USE THE VIKING 48" DUAL-FUEL RANGE I HAVE AT HOME.
I'M NOT SURE THIS'LL BE A PLEASURE FOR ME.


IT'S STILL SO WARM HERE. WE CAN SKI ALREADY IN ALASKA.
SOUNDS LIKE IT WAS A GREAT MOVE FOR YOU, SUZY.
OH, YEAH! WE HAVE A BIGGER HOUSE, BILL MAKES MORE MONEY, AND WE LOVE THE GREAT OUTDOORS!
DON'T YOU EVER MISS LIVING CLOSE ENOUGH TO HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER?
SURE...
...ALL THE TIME!! SOB!
!





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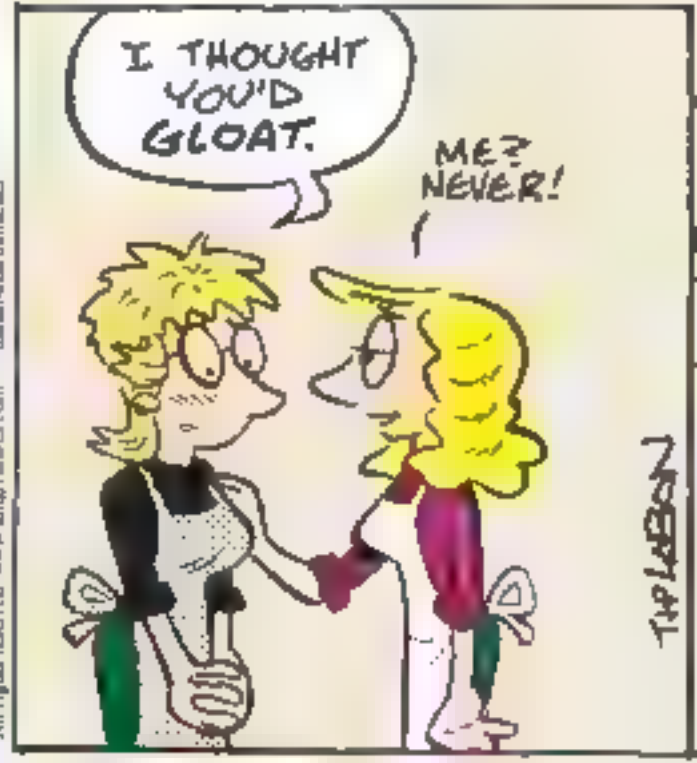
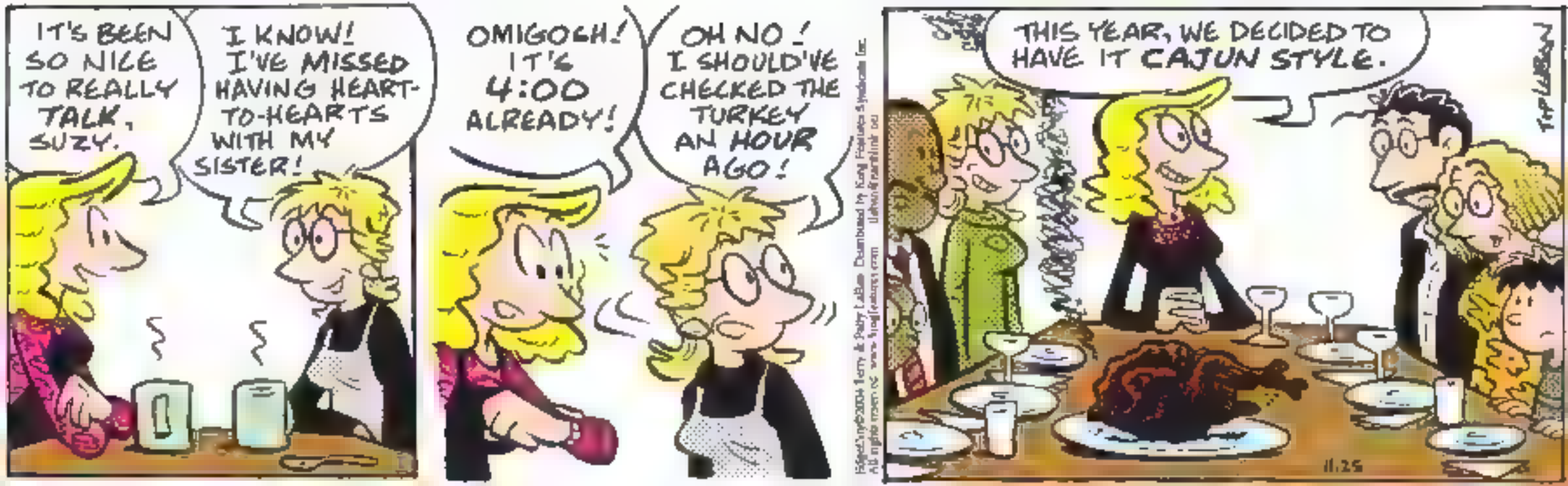
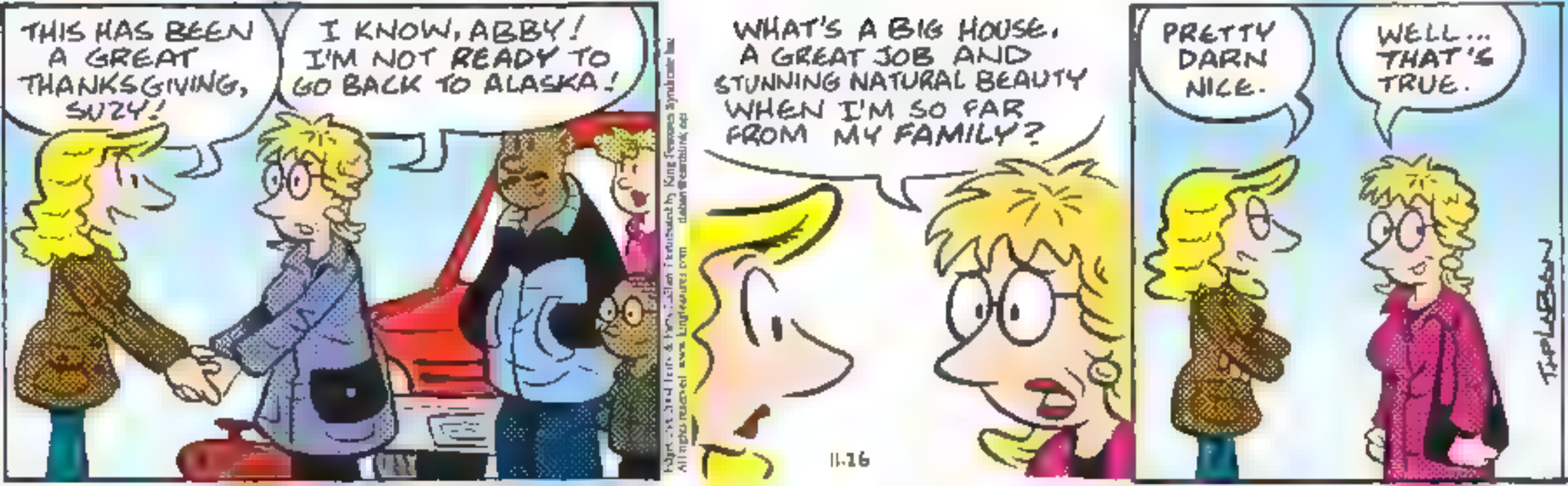
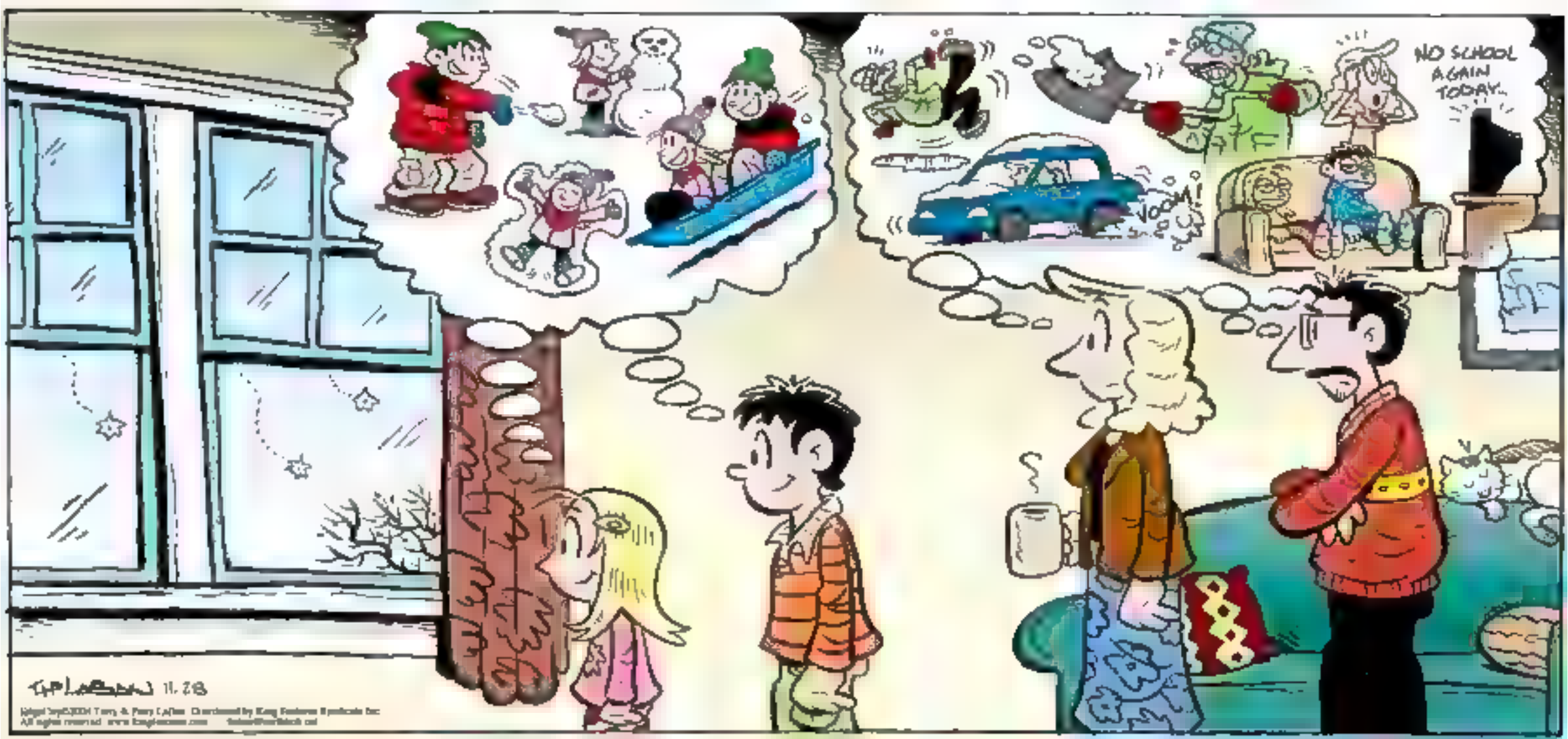
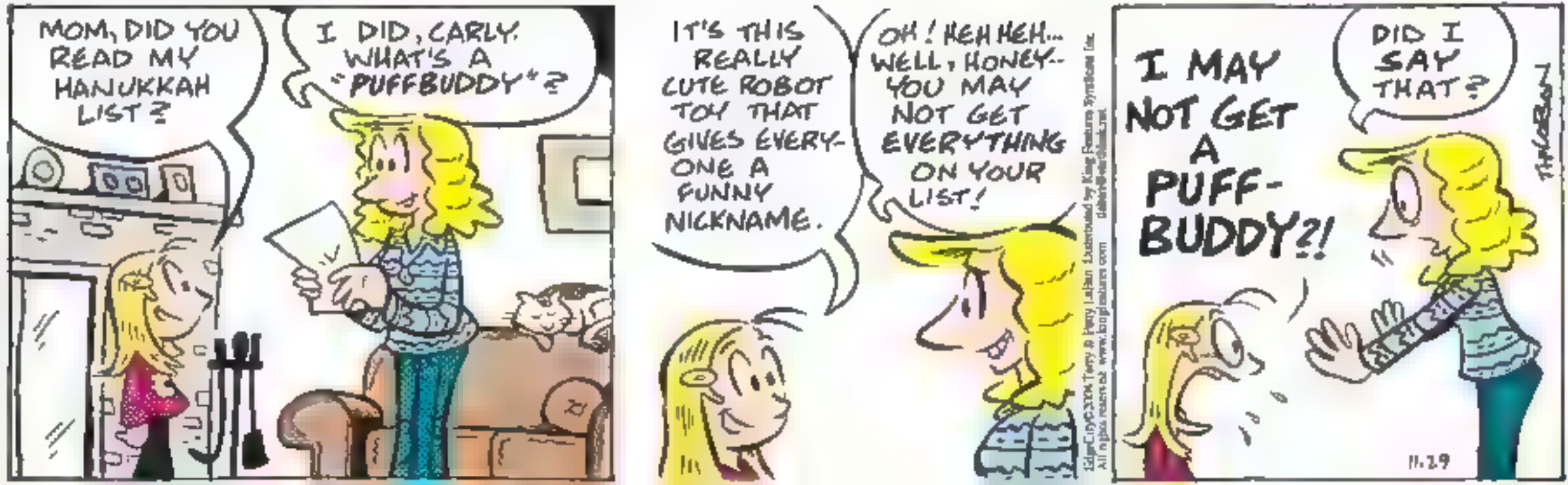


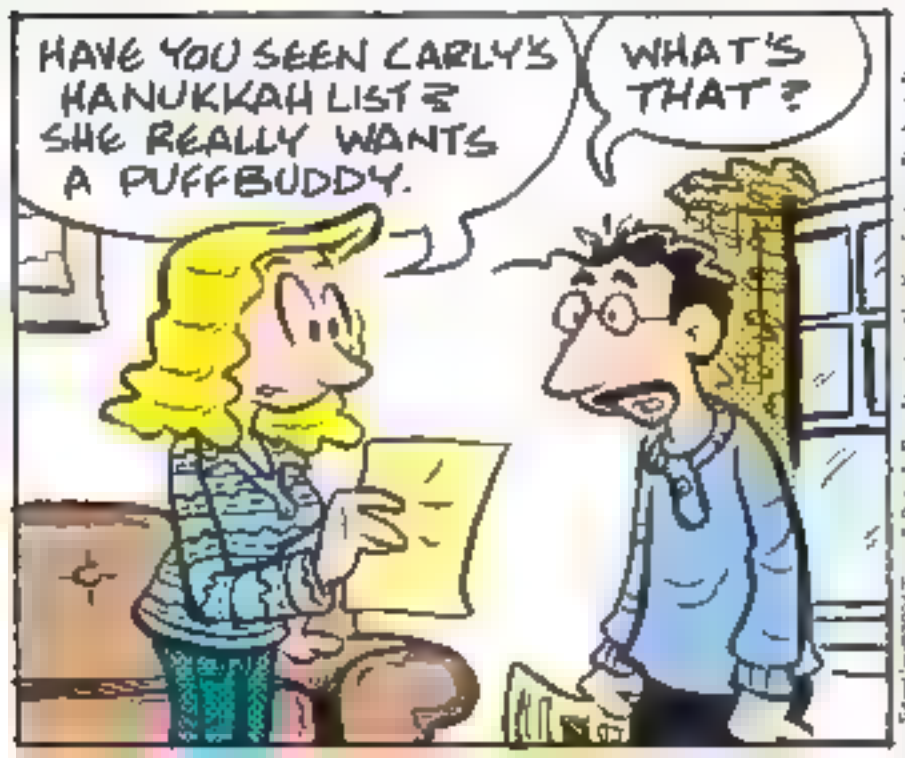

IT'S BEEN SO NICE TO REALLY TALK, SUZY.
I KNOW! I'VE MISSED HAVING HEART-TO-HEARTS WITH MY SISTER!
OMIGOSH! IT'S 4:00 ALREADY!
OH NO! I SHOULD'VE CHECKED THE TURKEY AN HOUR AGO!
THIS YEAR, WE DECIDED TO HAVE IT CAJUN STYLE.
11.25


THIS HAS BEEN A GREAT THANKSGIVING, SUZY!
I KNOW, ABBY! I'M NOT READY TO GO BACK TO ALASKA!
WHAT'S A BIG HOUSE, A GREAT JOB AND STUNNING NATURAL BEAUTY WHEN I'M SO FAR FROM MY FAMILY?
11-26
PRETTY DARN NICE.
WELL... THAT'S TRUE.
TUPLUBSON

SO, YOUR SISTER'S FAMILY LEFT?
YEAH. THE HOUSE FEELS SO EMPTY.
JUST 2 DAYS AGO, WE WERE ALL EATING THANKSGIVING DINNER TOGETHER. NOW IT'S LIKE THEY WERE NEVER HERE AT ALL.
AU CONTRAIRE-- WE STILL HAVE THE LEFTOVERS.
THEY'LL BE GONE TOO, SOMEDAY.
11.27


NO SCHOOL AGAIN TODAY...
VOOM!
11.28

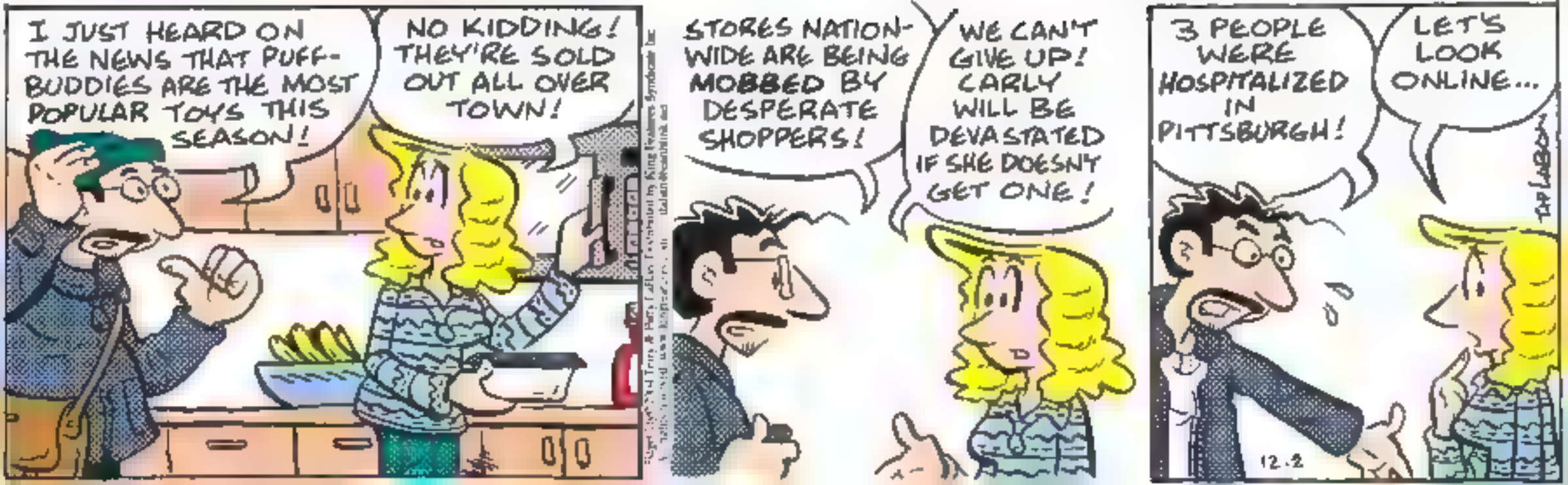

MOM, DID YOU READ MY HANUKKAH LIST?
I DID, CARLY. WHAT'S A "PUFFBUDDY"?
IT'S THIS REALLY CUTE ROBOT TOY THAT GIVES EVERYONE A FUNNY NICKNAME.
OH! HEH HEH... WELL, HONEY-- YOU MAY NOT GET EVERYTHING ON YOUR LIST!
I MAY NOT GET A PUFF-BUDDY?!
DID I SAY THAT?
11.29

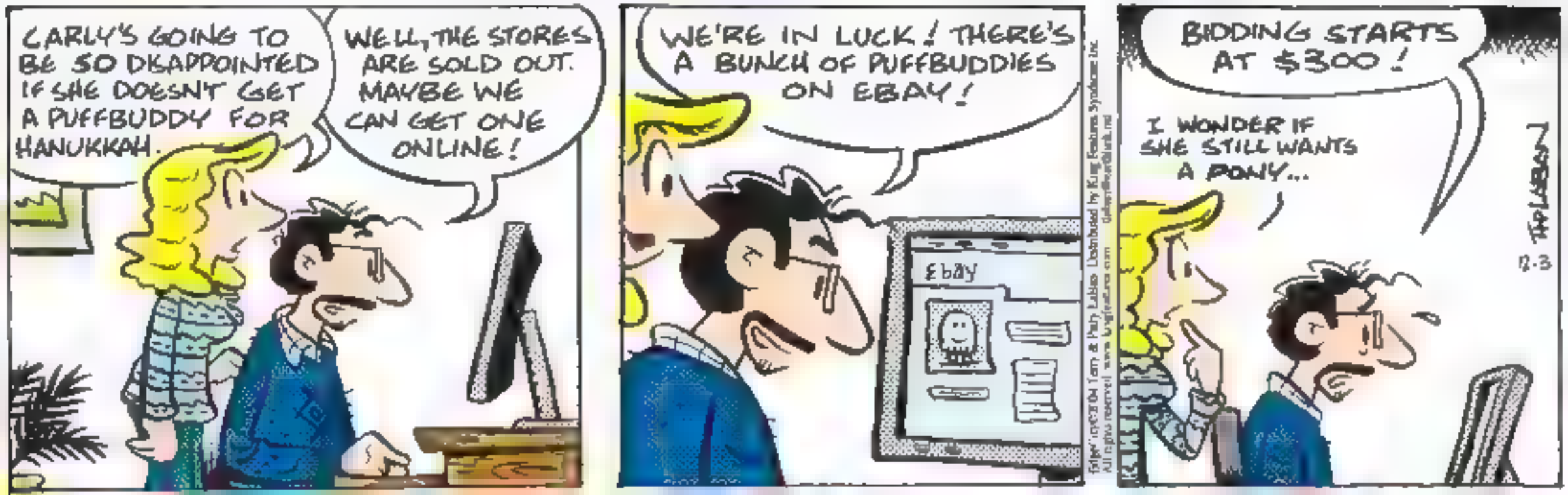

HAVE YOU SEEN CARLY'S HANUKKAH LIST? SHE REALLY WANTS A PUFFBUDDY.
WHAT'S THAT?

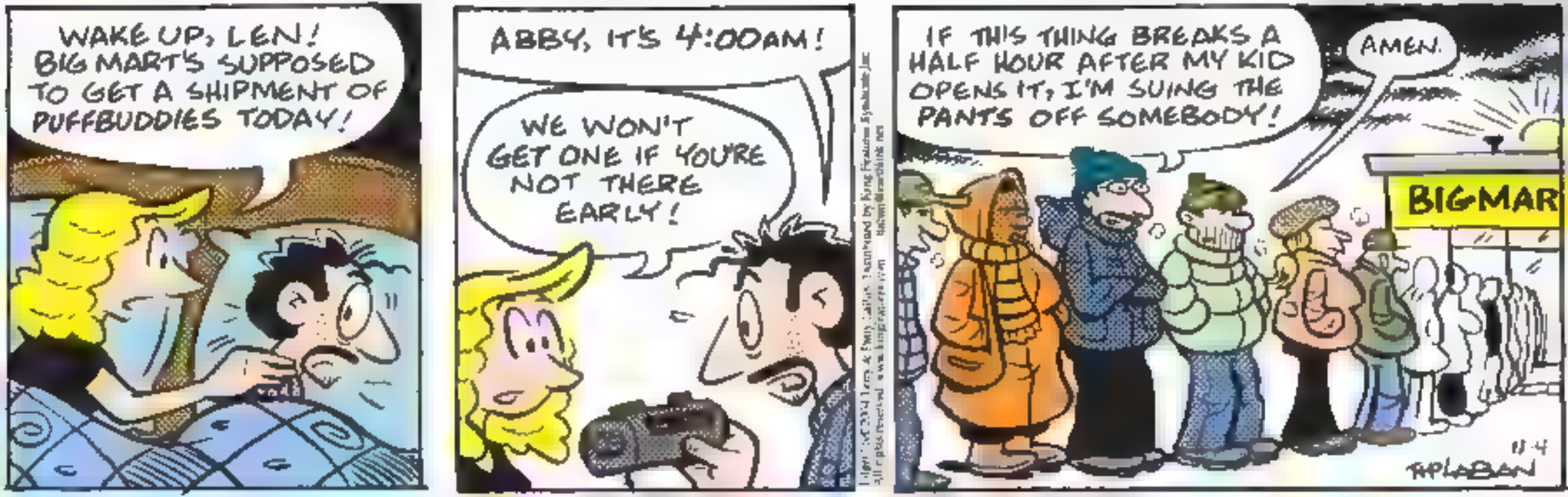
IT'S SOME KIND OF SMART ROBOT TOY THAT GIVES EVERY-ONE A NICKNAME.
NO WAY! IF WE GET THAT FOR HER, SHE'LL MAKE OUR LIVES MISERABLE!
11.30

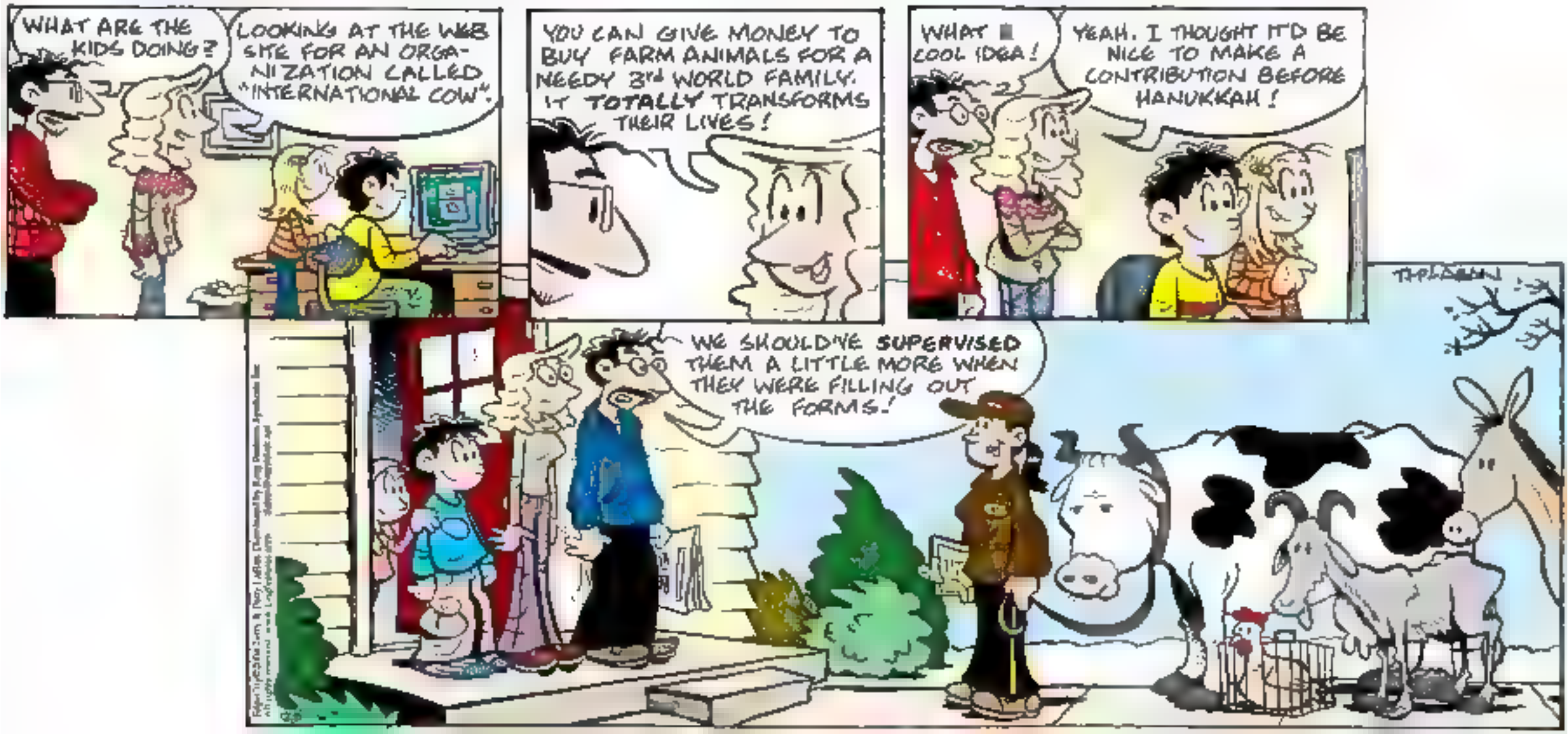
HOW MISERABLE WILL SHE MAKE OUR LIVES IF WE DON'T GET IT FOR HER?
I CAN'T WAIT FOR HANUKKAH! I JUST CAN'T WAIT!
PUFF-BUDDY

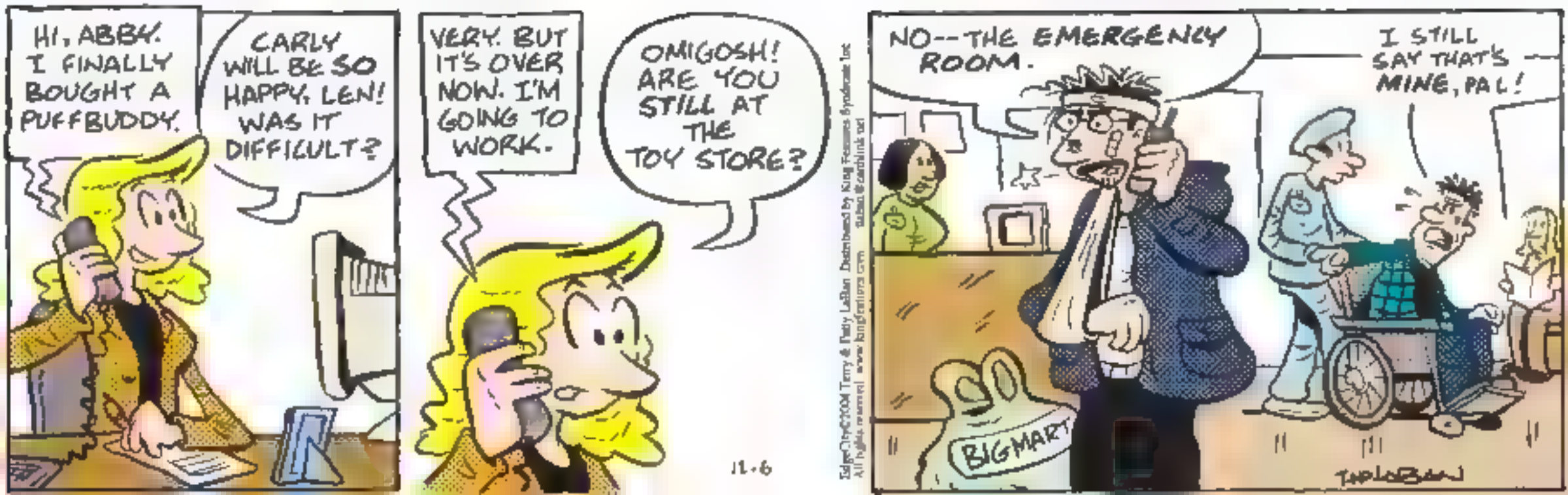
I'M LOOKING FOR A TOY CALLED A "PUFFBUDDY".
LET ME ASK THE MANAGER.
TOY LAND
MORT, DO WE HAVE ANY MORE PUFFBUDDIES?
NOPE...
...WE JUST SOLD OUT.
CHECK BACK TOMORROW!
!
PUFFBU


I JUST HEARD ON THE NEWS THAT PUFF-BUDDIES ARE THE MOST POPULAR TOYS THIS SEASON!
NO KIDDING! THEY'RE SOLD OUT ALL OVER TOWN!
STORES NATION-WIDE ARE BEING MOBBED BY DESPERATE SHOPPERS!
WE CAN'T GIVE UP! CARLY WILL BE DEVASTATED IF SHE DOESN'T GET ONE!
3 PEOPLE WERE HOSPITALIZED IN PITTSBURGH!
LET'S LOOK ONLINE...
TOM LABOON
12.2

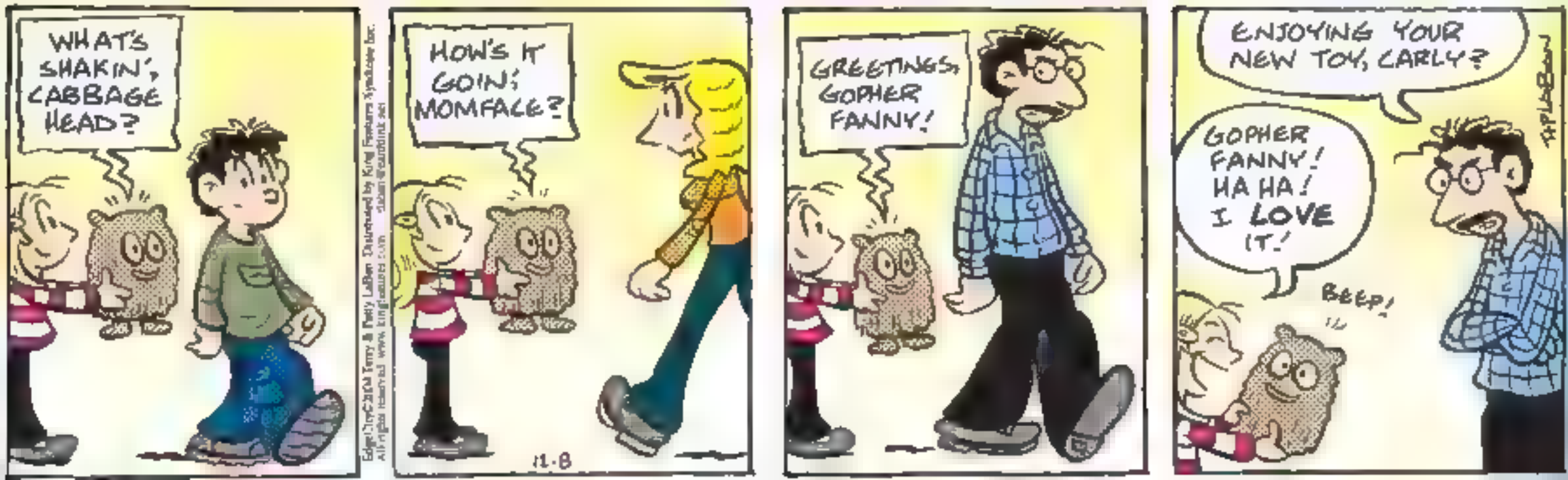

CARLY'S GOING TO BE SO DISAPPOINTED IF SHE DOESN'T GET A PUFFBUDDY FOR HANUKKAH.
WELL, THE STORES ARE SOLD OUT. MAYBE WE CAN GET ONE ONLINE!
WE'RE IN LUCK! THERE'S A BUNCH OF PUFFBUDDIES ON EBAY!
ebay
BIDDING STARTS AT $300!
I WONDER IF SHE STILL WANTS A PONY...
12-3

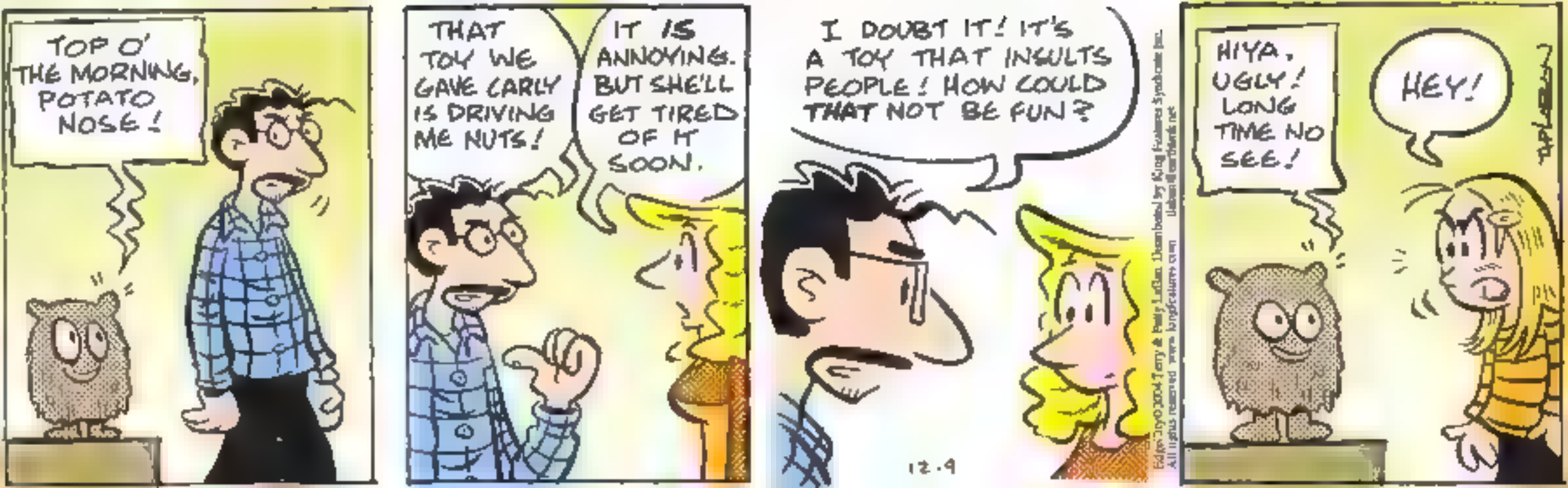

WAKE UP, LEN! BIG MART'S SUPPOSED TO GET A SHIPMENT OF PUFFBUDDIES TODAY!
ABBY, IT'S 4:00AM!
WE WON'T GET ONE IF YOU'RE NOT THERE EARLY!
IF THIS THING BREAKS A HALF HOUR AFTER MY KID OPENS IT, I'M SUING THE PANTS OFF SOMEBODY!
AMEN.
BIGMAR
11-4
THPLABAN


WHAT ARE THE KIDS DOING?
LOOKING AT THE WEB SITE FOR AN ORGANIZATION CALLED "INTERNATIONAL COW".
YOU CAN GIVE MONEY TO BUY FARM ANIMALS FOR A NEEDY 3rd WORLD FAMILY. IT TOTALLY TRANSFORMS THEIR LIVES!
WHAT A COOL IDEA!
YEAH. I THOUGHT IT'D BE NICE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION BEFORE HANUKKAH!
WE SHOULD'VE SUPERVISED THEM A LITTLE MORE WHEN THEY WERE FILLING OUT THE FORMS!


HI, ABBY. I FINALLY BOUGHT A PUFFBUDDY.
CARLY WILL BE SO HAPPY, LEN! WAS IT DIFFICULT?
VERY. BUT IT'S OVER NOW. I'M GOING TO WORK.
OMIGOSH! ARE YOU STILL AT THE TOY STORE?
11-6
NO--THE EMERGENCY ROOM.
I STILL SAY THAT'S MINE, PAL!
BIGMART

HAPPY HANUKKAH!
OH, BOY! A PUFFBUDDY!
THANKS, MOM!
THANK YOUR DAD, HONEY! IT WAS VERY HARD TO GET ONE, BUT HE DIDN'T GIVE UP!
HEY, 4-EYES! WHAT ARE YOU LOOKIN' AT?
THOUGH MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE.
12-7


WHAT'S SHAKIN', CABBAGE HEAD?
HOW'S IT GOIN', MOMFACE?
11-8
GREETINGS, GOPHER FANNY!
ENJOYING YOUR NEW TOY, CARLY?
GOPHER FANNY! HA HA! I LOVE IT!
BEEP!


TOP O' THE MORNING, POTATO NOSE!
THAT TOY WE GAVE CARLY IS DRIVING ME NUTS!
IT IS ANNOYING. BUT SHE'LL GET TIRED OF IT SOON.
I DOUBT IT! IT'S A TOY THAT INSULTS PEOPLE! HOW COULD THAT NOT BE FUN?
12-9
HIYA, UGLY! LONG TIME NO SEE!
HEY!

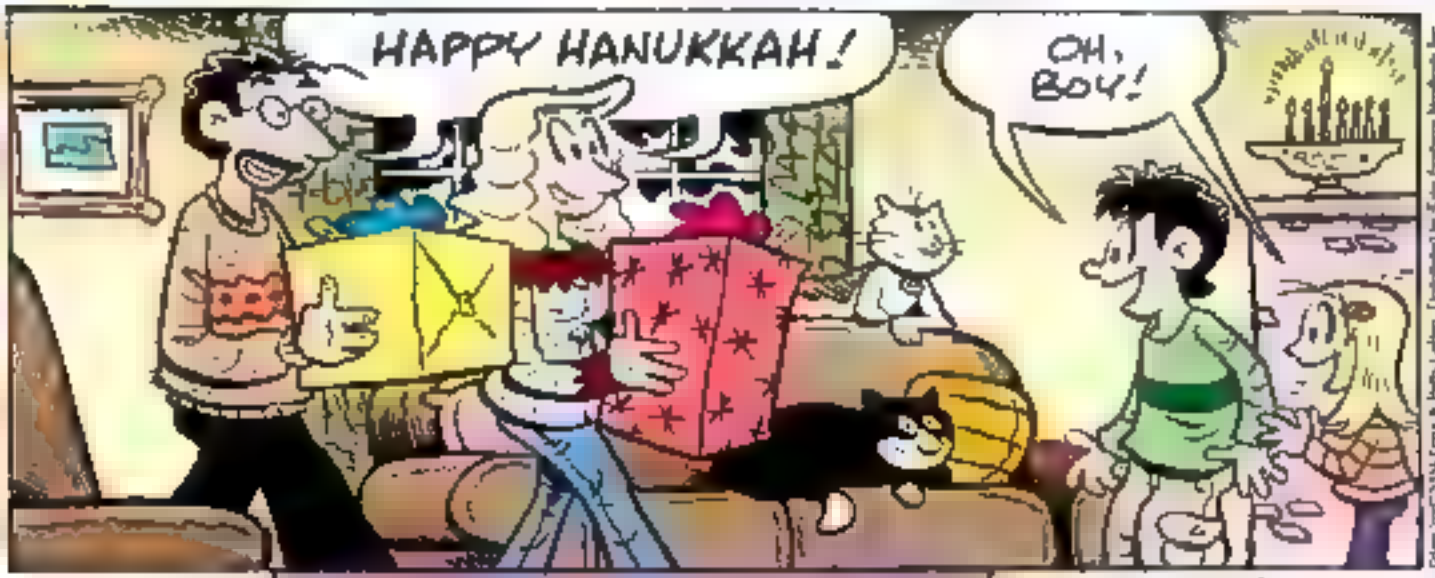
I'VE NOTICED CARLY ISN'T PLAYING WITH HER PUFFBUDDY ANYMORE.
I THINK SHE'S TIRED OF IT.
I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D EVER GET TIRED OF A TOY THAT INSULTS PEOPLE. WHAT HAPPENED?
IT STARTED INSULTING HER!
I TOOK OUT ITS BATTERIES WHEN IT CALLED ME A "BOOGER BRAIN."

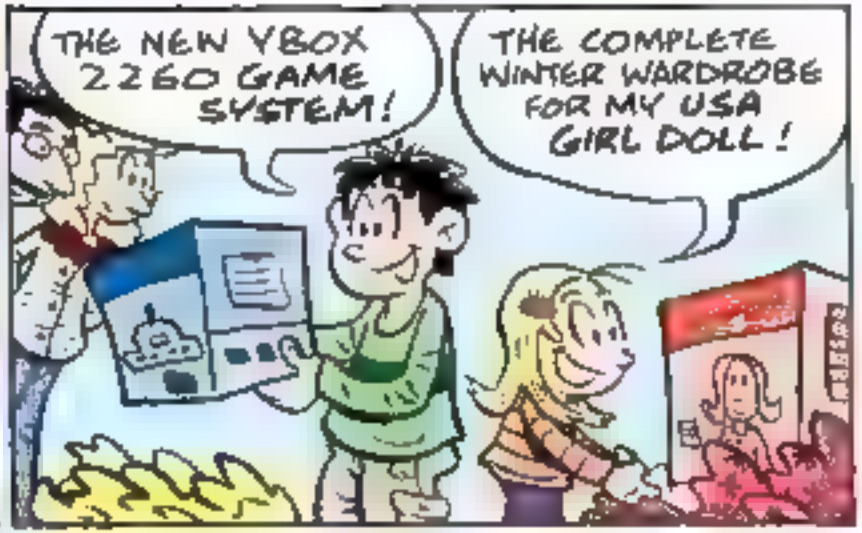
CARLY DOESN'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS TOY WE GOT HER FOR HANUKKAH.
THE PUFF-BUDDY? I KNOW.

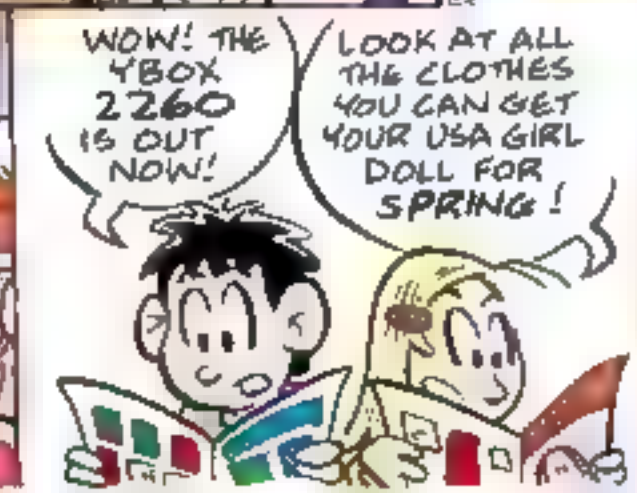
AND YOU WENT THROUGH SO MUCH TROUBLE TO GET IT! WHAT A WASTE!
WASTE? HONEY, IT'S THE HOTTEST TOY THIS SEASON!
T+P LABAN

SO?
SO, CHRISTMAS IS STILL 2 WEEKS AWAY!
12-11

I JUST PLACED AN AD OFFERING TO SELL IT FOR $500 OR BEST OFFER!
RING!
RING!
RING!
DING DONG!
BEEP!


HAPPY HANUKKAH!
OH, BOY!


THE NEW YBOX 2260 GAME SYSTEM!
THE COMPLETE WINTER WARDROBE FOR MY USA GIRL DOLL!


WOW! THE YBOX 2260 IS OUT NOW!
LOOK AT ALL THE CLOTHES YOU CAN GET YOUR USA GIRL DOLL FOR SPRING!

KIDS USED TO BE HAPPY WITH NEW TOYS FOR AT LEAST A FEW DAYS. NOW IT'S JUST TILL THEY READ THE PACKAGE INSERTS.
PLEASE?!

HEY, LEN AND RAJIV-- WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE OFFICE DOING "SECRET SANTAS" THIS WEEK?
WHERE WE DRAW NAMES AND SECRETLY GIVE PEOPLE GIFTS? THAT'D BE FUN.
I DON'T KNOW. IT MIGHT INTERFERE WITH GETTING OUR WORK DONE.
IN OTHER WORDS, "BAH, HUMBUG"!
OF COURSE, IF EVERYONE WANTS TO...
12.13

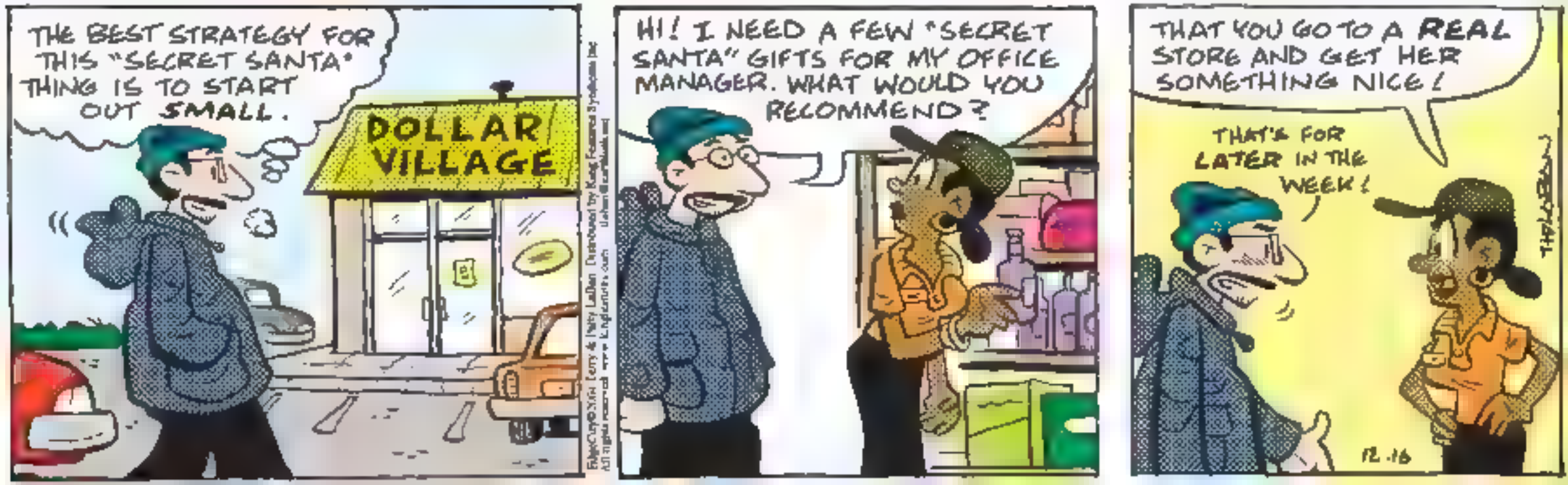
OH, MAN... I DREW OUR OFFICE MANAGER FOR MY "SECRET SANTA"!
LUISA? COOL.
I DON'T KNOW, RAJIV. I'M NOT GOOD AT PRESENTS. ABBY ALWAYS BUYS THEM IN OUR FAMILY.
HOW DO YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT TO BUY ABBY?
SHE TELLS ME!
I THINK THIS'LL BE GOOD FOR YOU!
TOM LABBAN

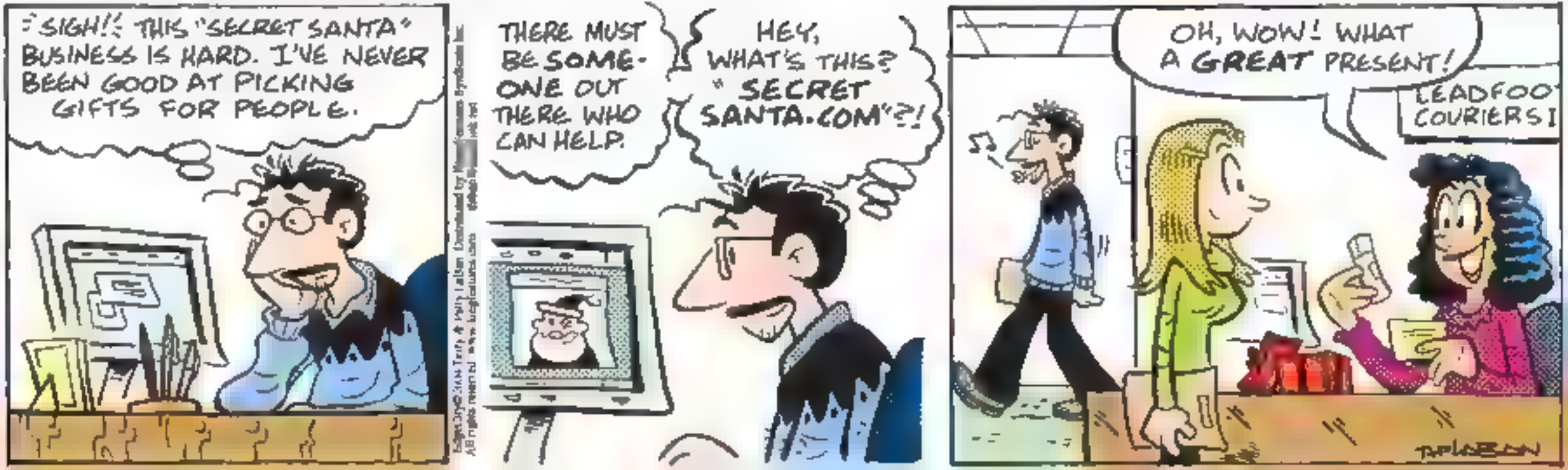
DID YOU GET ANYTHING FOR YOUR "SECRET SANTA", LEN?
NOT YET, RAJIV.

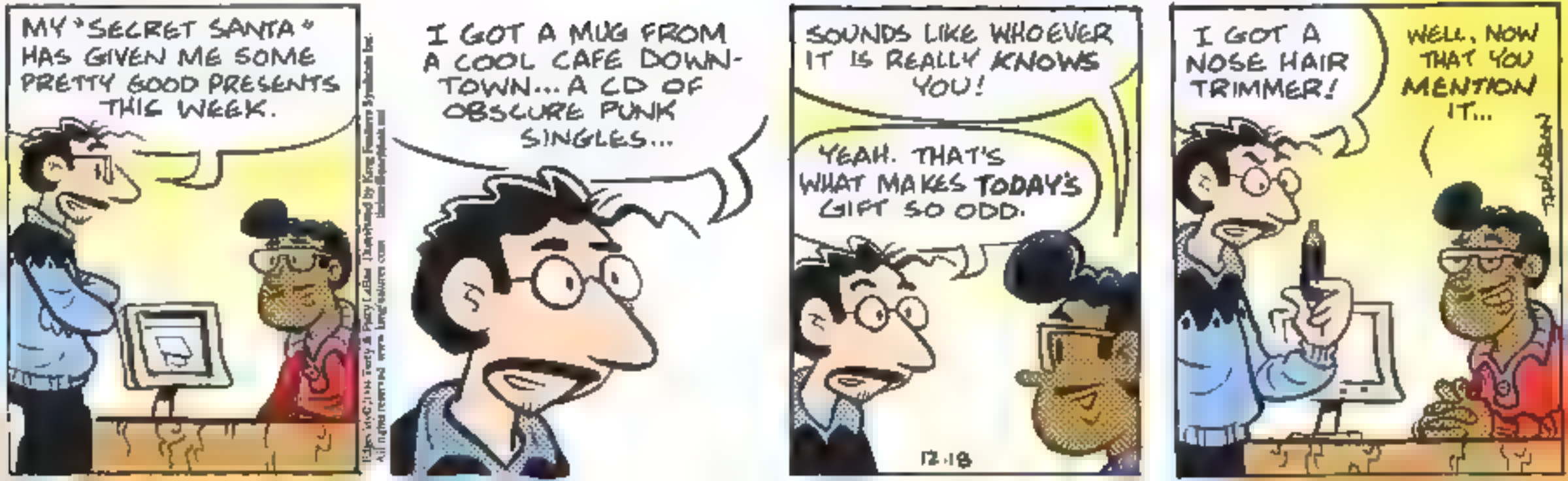
THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME. WE JUST DREW NAMES YESTERDAY.

FOR LEN FROM YOUR SECRET SANTA

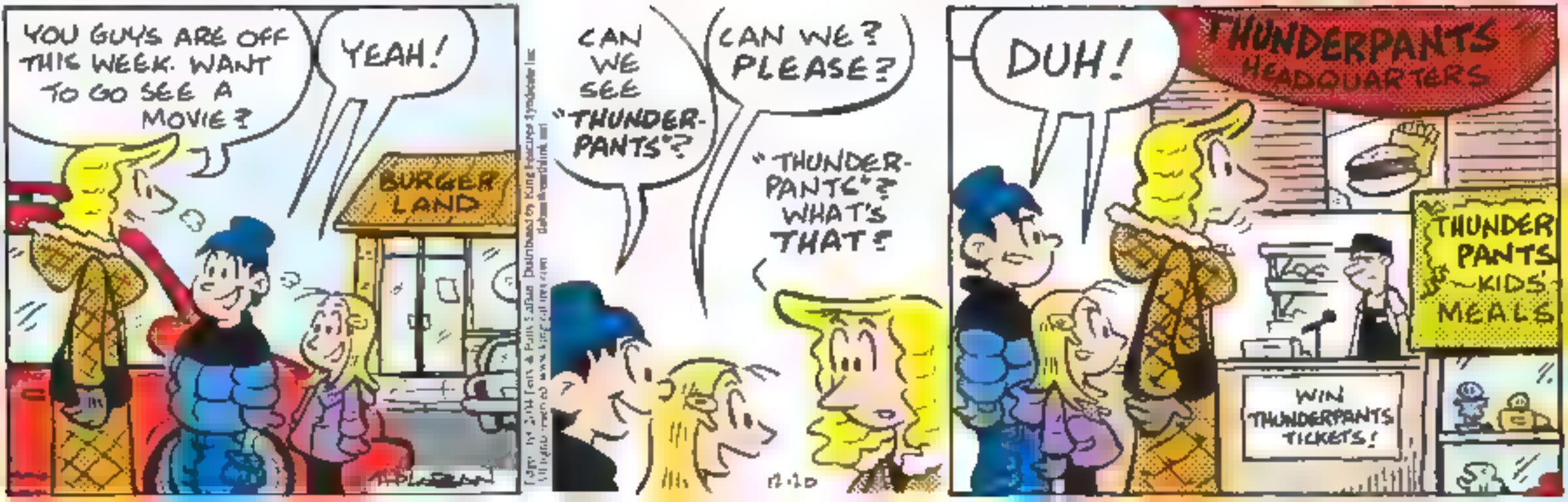
I'LL BE BACK IN A BIT.
12-16

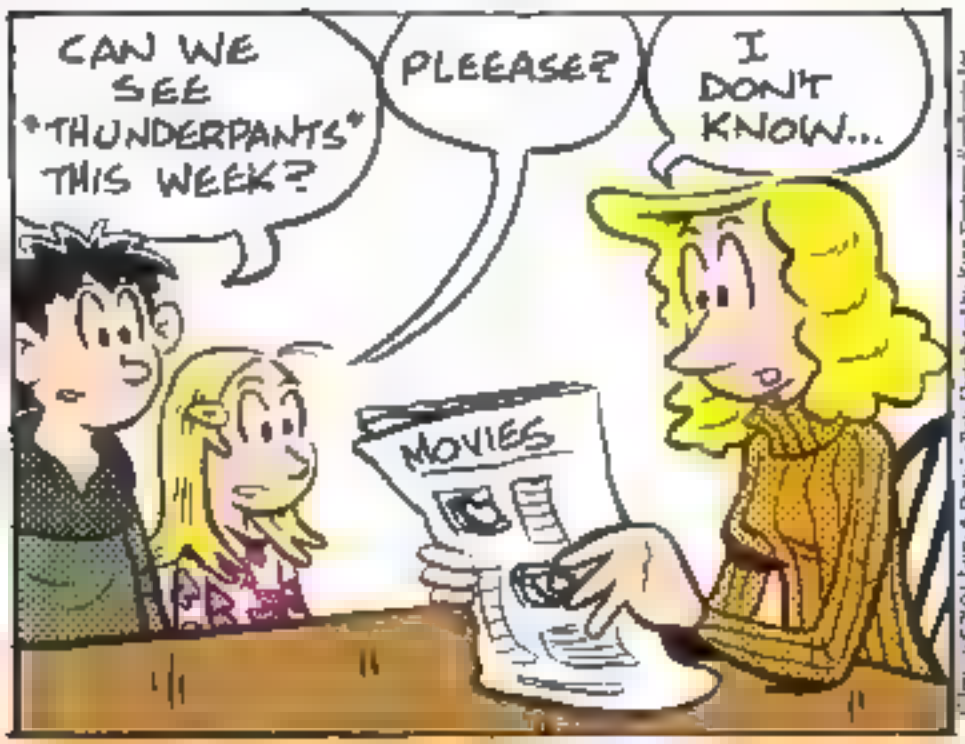

THE BEST STRATEGY FOR THIS "SECRET SANTA" THING IS TO START OUT SMALL.
DOLLAR VILLAGE
HI! I NEED A FEW "SECRET SANTA" GIFTS FOR MY OFFICE MANAGER. WHAT WOULD YOU RECOMMEND?
THAT YOU GO TO A REAL STORE AND GET HER SOMETHING NICE!
THAT'S FOR LATER IN THE WEEK!
12.16


SIGH! THIS "SECRET SANTA" BUSINESS IS HARD. I'VE NEVER BEEN GOOD AT PICKING GIFTS FOR PEOPLE.
THERE MUST BE SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO CAN HELP.
HEY, WHAT'S THIS? "SECRET SANTA.COM"?!
OH, WOW! WHAT A GREAT PRESENT!
LEADFOOT COURIERS!

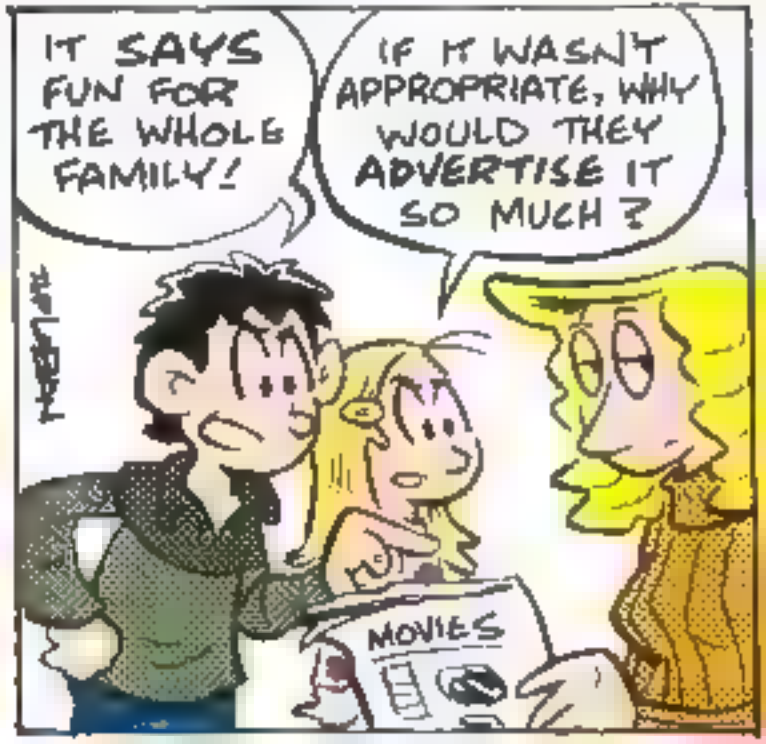

MY "SECRET SANTA" HAS GIVEN ME SOME PRETTY GOOD PRESENTS THIS WEEK.
I GOT A MUG FROM A COOL CAFE DOWN-TOWN... A CD OF OBSCURE PUNK SINGLES...
SOUNDS LIKE WHOEVER IT IS REALLY KNOWS YOU!
YEAH. THAT'S WHAT MAKES TODAY'S GIFT SO ODD.
12-18
I GOT A NOSE HAIR TRIMMER!
WELL, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

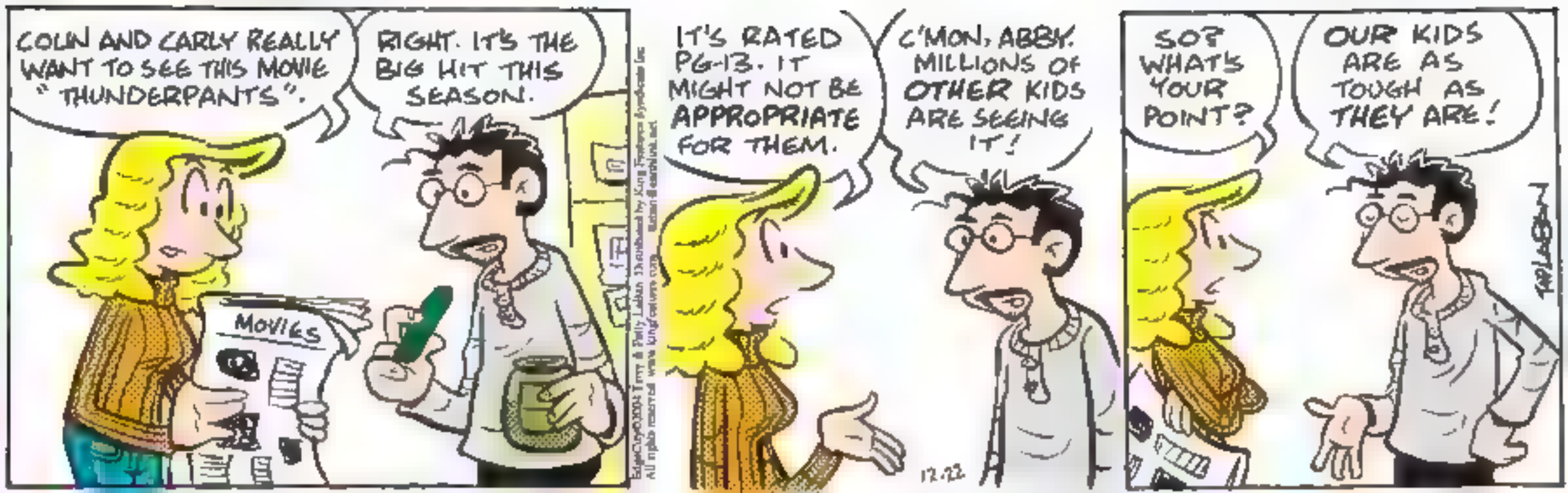
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON CHRISTMAS, RAJIV?
NOT MUCH. JUST HAVING A QUIET DAY, I GUESS.
COME HAVE DINNER WITH US!
DINNER? I THOUGHT YOU GUYS DIDN'T CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS, EITHER.
WELL, NOT AS A RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY. BUT WE DO HAVE OUR TRADITIONS.
LOTUS GARDEN
...ALMOND CHICKEN, HOMESTYLE BEAN CURD AND VEGETABLE CHOW MEIN?
RIGHT. AND PLEASE BRING IT AS SOON AS YOU CAN. WE'RE SEEING A MOVIE AT 7:30.

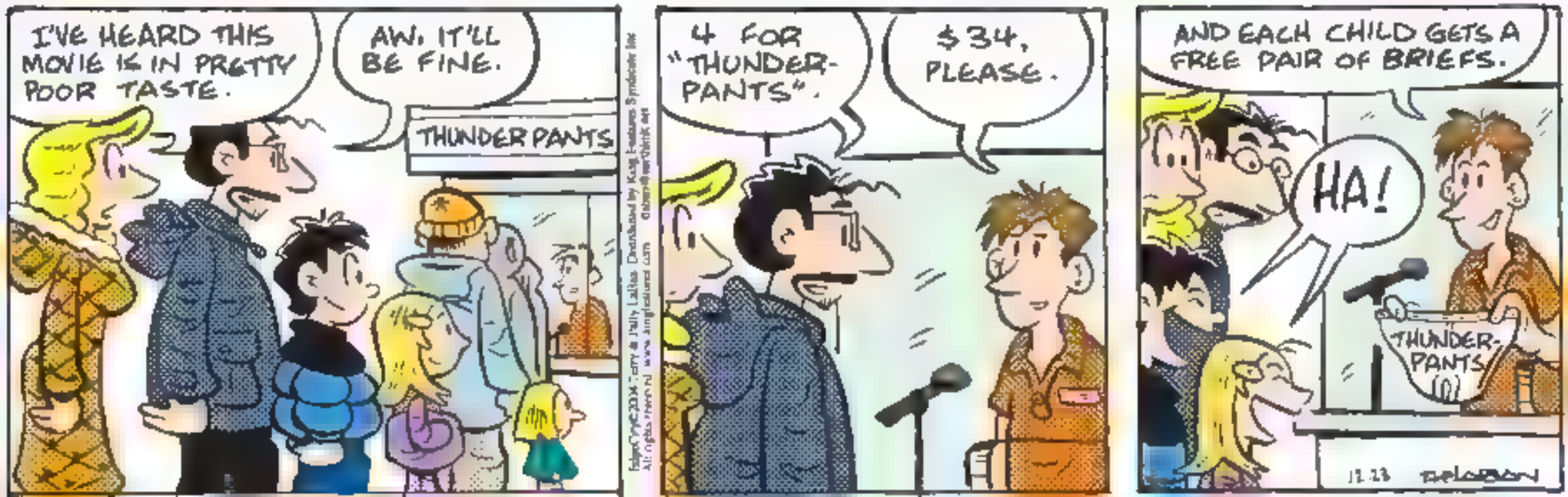

YOU GUYS ARE OFF THIS WEEK. WANT TO GO SEE A MOVIE?
YEAH!
BURGER LAND
CAN WE SEE "THUNDER-PANTS"?
CAN WE? PLEASE?
"THUNDER-PANTS"? WHAT'S THAT?
DUH!
THUNDERPANTS HEADQUARTERS
THUNDER PANTS ~KIDS' MEALS
WIN THUNDERPANTS TICKETS!

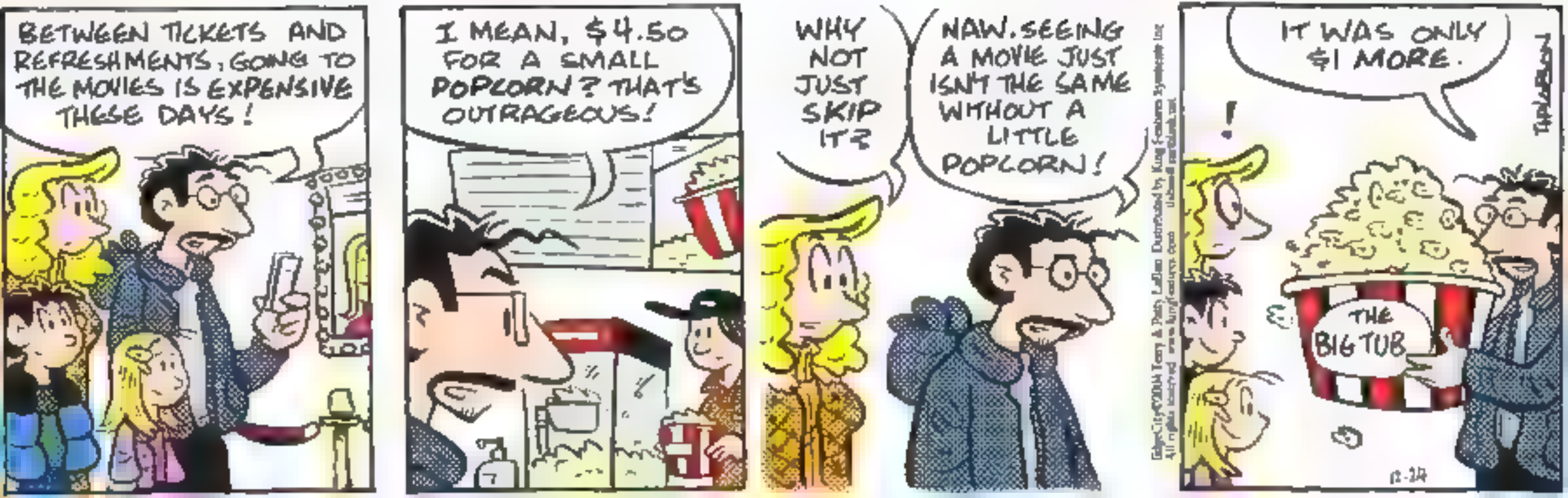

CAN WE SEE "THUNDERPANTS" THIS WEEK?
PLEEASE?
I DON'T KNOW...
MOVIES

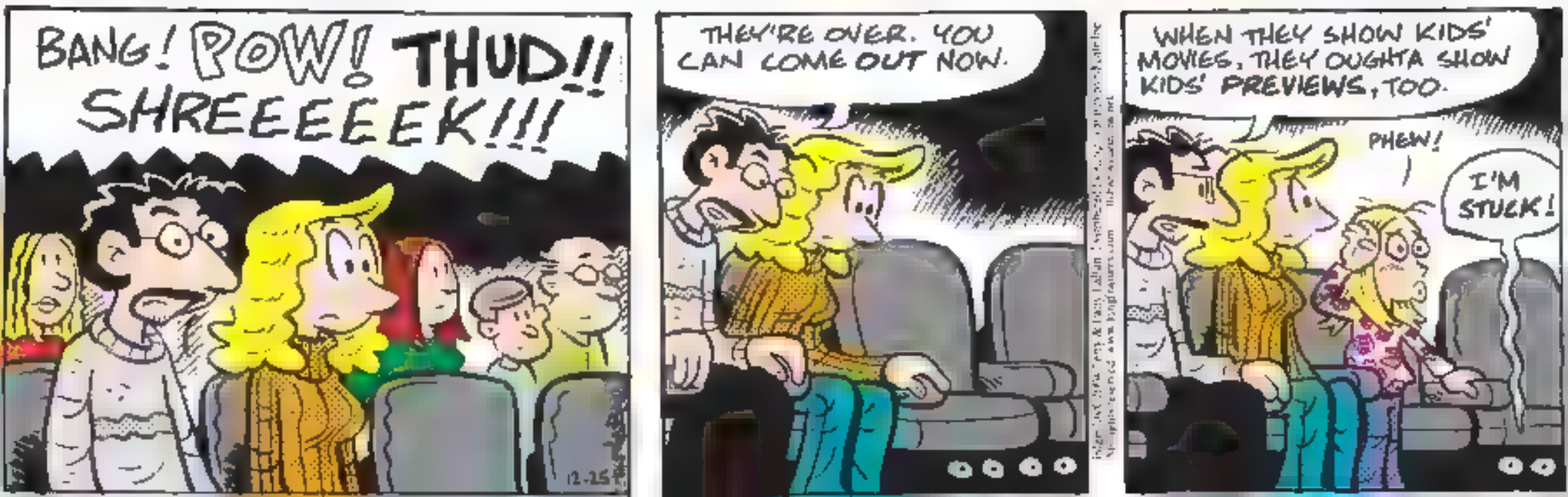
I'M NOT SURE IT'S APPROPRIATE FOR YOU GUYS. IT'S RATED PG-13!
SO?
THUNDER PANTS
12-21


IT SAYS FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
IF IT WASN'T APPROPRIATE, WHY WOULD THEY ADVERTISE IT SO MUCH?
MOVIES


COLIN AND CARLY REALLY WANT TO SEE THIS MOVIE "THUNDERPANTS".
RIGHT. IT'S THE BIG HIT THIS SEASON.
MOVIES
IT'S RATED PG-13. IT MIGHT NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THEM.
C'MON, ABBY. MILLIONS OF OTHER KIDS ARE SEEING IT!
SO? WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
OUR KIDS ARE AS TOUGH AS THEY ARE!
12-22
TOM LABAN

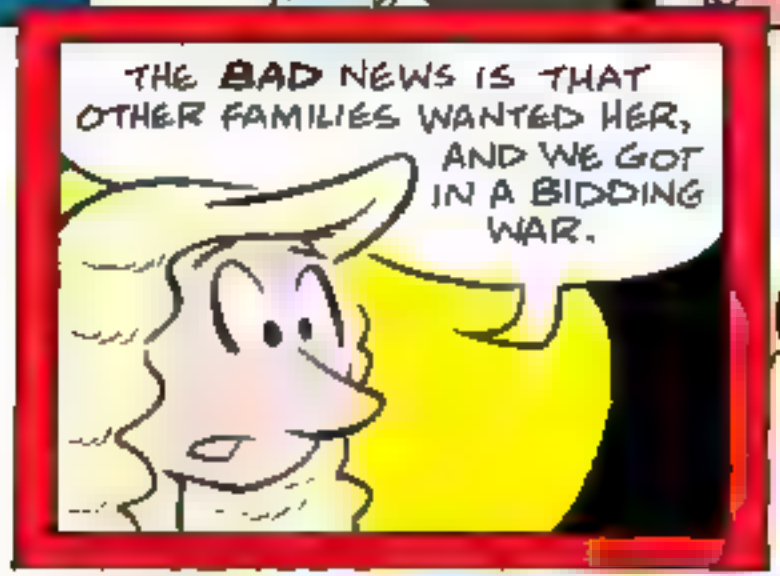

I'VE HEARD THIS MOVIE IS IN PRETTY POOR TASTE.
AW, IT'LL BE FINE.
THUNDER PANTS
4 FOR "THUNDER-PANTS".
$34, PLEASE.
AND EACH CHILD GETS A FREE PAIR OF BRIEFS.
HA!
THUNDER-PANTS


BETWEEN TICKETS AND REFRESHMENTS, GOING TO THE MOVIES IS EXPENSIVE THESE DAYS!
I MEAN, $4.50 FOR A SMALL POPCORN? THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS!
WHY NOT JUST SKIP IT?
NAW. SEEING A MOVIE JUST ISN'T THE SAME WITHOUT A LITTLE POPCORN!
IT WAS ONLY $1 MORE.
!
THE BIG TUB


BANG! POW! THUD!! SHREEEEEEK!!!
12-25
THEY'RE OVER. YOU CAN COME OUT NOW.
WHEN THEY SHOW KIDS' MOVIES, THEY OUGHTA SHOW KIDS' PREVIEWS, TOO.
PHEW!
I'M STUCK!

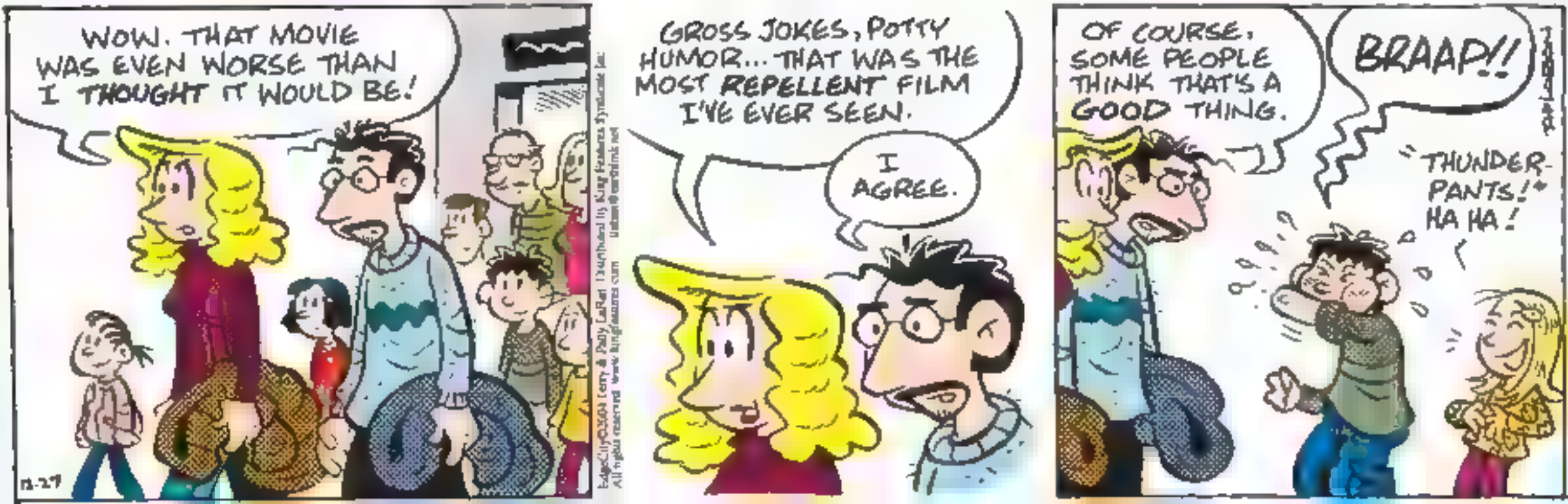
LEN, I'M ON THE PHONE WITH CARLA ABOUT BABYSITTING NEW YEAR'S EVE.

WHAT DOES SHE SAY?
WELL, THE GOOD NEWS IS, SHE'S AVAILABLE!


THE BAD NEWS IS THAT OTHER FAMILIES WANTED HER, AND WE GOT IN A BIDDING WAR.

THE GOOD NEWS IS, WE WON!
AND THE BAD NEWS IS...

AW, DON'T EVEN TELL ME.
30$ AN HOUR! WOO HOO!!


WOW. THAT MOVIE WAS EVEN WORSE THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE!
GROSS JOKES, POTTY HUMOR... THAT WAS THE MOST REPELLENT FILM I'VE EVER SEEN.
I AGREE.
OF COURSE, SOME PEOPLE THINK THAT'S A GOOD THING.
BRAAP!!
"THUNDER-PANTS!" HA HA!

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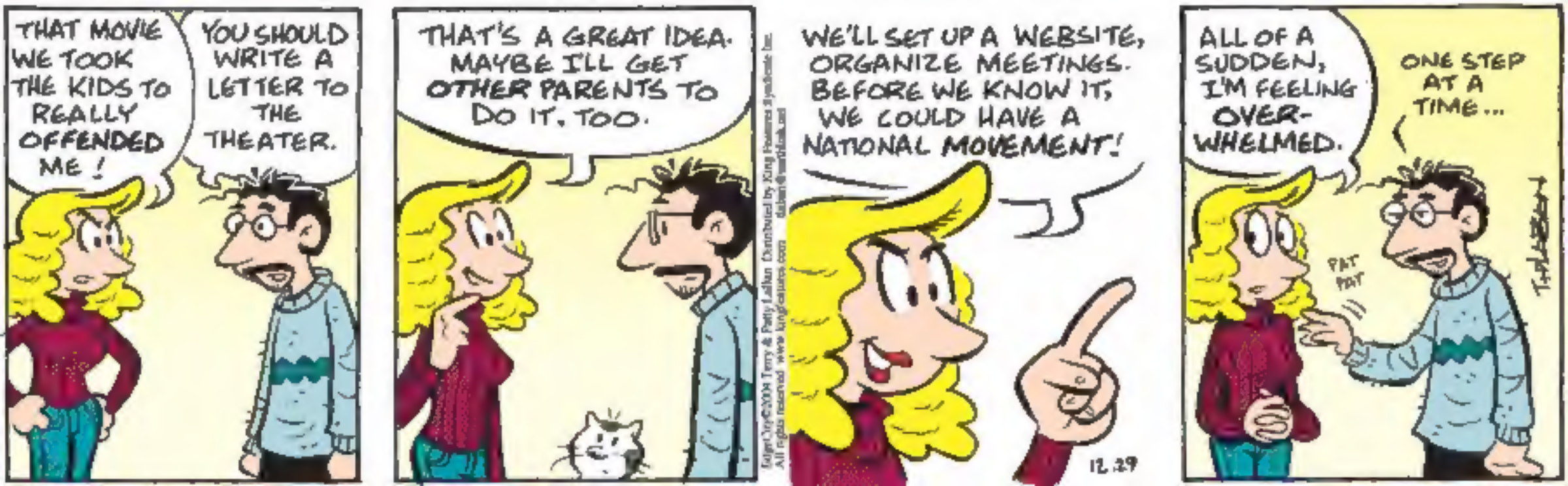
THAT MOVIE WE TOOK THE KIDS TO REALLY OFFENDED ME!
YOU SHOULD WRITE A LETTER TO THE THEATER.
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA. MAYBE I'LL GET OTHER PARENTS TO DO IT, TOO.
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WE'LL SET UP A WEBSITE, ORGANIZE MEETINGS. BEFORE WE KNOW IT, WE COULD HAVE A NATIONAL MOVEMENT!
12.29
ALL OF A SUDDEN, I'M FEELING OVER-WHELMED.
ONE STEP AT A TIME...
PAT PAT
TERRY LALKUN

YOU KNOW THAT LETTER I WROTE TO THE THEATER COMPLAINING ABOUT THE MOVIE WE SAW? I GOT A REPLY.
ALREADY?
DID THEY APOLOGIZE?
NOT EXACTLY.
THEY PUT US ON THEIR MAILING LIST.
25% OFF OUR NEXT MOVIE! LET'S GO SEE "THUNDERPANTS" AGAIN!
25%
12-30

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